PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, November 23, 2009 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 348 P18

EFREN Peñaflorida receives the 2009 CNN Hero of the Year award in Hollywood.

Grieving over Austen, Hemingway, Updike
LEARNING/ H4

RP film best in Cairo fest
ENTERTAINMENT/ G1

Another RP boxer wins world title
SPORTS/ A33

RP pushcart educator CNN hero of the year

STREET pupils of the Dynamic Teen Co. join their teacher-volunteers led by Peñaflorida (second from right) in series merrymaking during a class session in Cavite City.

PEÑAFLORIDA: "Each person has a hidden hero within. You just have to look inside you and search it in your heart, and be the hero to the next one in need."

Peñaflorida tops network's online voting

LOS ANGELES—A Filipino street educator has been named the 2009 CNN Hero of the Year for starting a "pushcart classroom" in the Philippines to bring education to poor children as an alternative to gang membership.

The selection of Efren Peñaflorida was revealed on Saturday night by CNN's Anderson Cooper at the conclusion of the third-annual "CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute" at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood.

The gala event, taped before an audience of 3,000, premieres on Thanksgiving, Nov. 26, at 9 p.m. (ET/PT) on the global networks of CNN.

As a child, Peñaflorida picked school over gang life in Cavite City and vowed to create a way for other children to make the same choice.

He created a program that brings books to children in slums and on the streets, and the 10,000 members of his Dynamic Teen Co. have brought reading, writing and hygiene to 1,500 youngsters.

BP PUSHCART/ A12

Group thankful for blessing

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

WHEN THEY LEARNED THAT their group's founder, Efren Peñaflorida, had been chosen CNN's Hero of the Year, leaders of Dynamic Teen Co. (DTC) were busy training new volunteers for its "pushcart (librobot) classrooms," the same work that gave Peñaflorida worldwide recognition.

Peñaflorida's 28-year-old sister Elenn Mae was at the group's office in Cavite City orientating the training yesterday afternoon when she learned about the good news after checking CNN's website.

In her Cavite home, Peñaflorida's mother, Lucita, 48, had been praying and was overwhelmed on hearing her son had won.

"I was very, very happy. I kept jumping with joy," she told the Inquirer. "The Lord heard my prayers."

"We are very thankful that God gave us this blessing. I am very proud of my brother," Glenn Mae said.

On Thursday, Peñaflorida, 28, flew to the United States to attend CNN's awarding ceremony, being one of its 10 heroes for 2009.

He was in for a welcome surprise.

GROUP/ A12

In fun run, Erap shows he's fit for presidency

By Allison W. Lopez

FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH "Erap" Estrada showed that at the age of 72, he was still fit for the presidency. He led a commemorative run on the University of Makati's new track oval yesterday before a cheering crowd of 1,000 students.

In a blue track suit with orange stripes and matching sneakers, the movie actor-turned-politician arrived promptly at 7 a.m. and jogged on the 1,500-meter oval.

The crowd screamed as he and his running mate in the May elections, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, carried torches while making their way to the finish line. With them were ceremonial aspirant Jinggoy de Venecia, the NBN-2TE whistle-blower, and 200 students.

Estrada later told reporters that he had challenged Binay to another lap, but the mayor declined. "No, it didn't bother me.

IN FUN RUN/ A12

Top Sarangani officials snub Pacquiao's arrival

By Aquiles Zonio
Inquirer Mindanao
Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Allison W. Lopez

WHILE SOME OF THE COUNtry's biggest presidential aspirants may be scrambling to win the support of Manny Pacquiao, officials in the very province where boxing's biggest superstar plans to mount his battle for a seat in Congress appear to have ignored him.

In Mindanao's Sarangani province, Pacquiao's camp yesterday criticized provincial officials for snubbing his arrival on Saturday.

They put up no welcome banners and none of them showed up to congratulate Pacquiao when he spoke and appealed to residents to join him in his fight to conquer poverty and protest.

TOP SARANGANI/ A10

Team Krista rises to defend actress

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT'S A ONE-TWO PUNCH FROM Team Krista.

Smarting from a slew of intrigues, Krista Bautillo's relatives—grandmother Gloria

TEAM KRISTA/ A19

Lakas-Kampi faces 'big bang' crash

By Amando Doronila

THE COUNTRY'S DOMINANT political coalition—the Lakas-Kampi-CMD—faces disintegration as its leaders admit that up to 40 percent of its cadres have defected to join two major parties, the Liberal Party (LP) and the Nacionalista Party (NP) that are staging a revival following their abolition by the Marcos dictatorship in 1972.

ANALYSIS

Should the defections turn into a landslide, the ruling coalition is in danger of following the fate of the "big bang" crash of the patronage-fed LDP (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino), the political machine of then Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. in the 1992 presidential election at the end of the term of President Corazon Aquino, who did not seek reelection.

This grim picture of the coalition's prospects in the May 2010 elections was presented by Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri, the party's vice

LAKAS-KAMPI/ A12

RP has 3 nominations for Emmys

By Marinel R. Cruz
Entertainment

ANGEL LOCSIN, THE SECOND Filipino nominated for best actress in the 37th International Emmy Awards, will walk the red carpet at the gala ceremony in New York on Monday (Tuesday morning in Manila).

"This is a big honor. I try not to think about whether I would win the award or not. It's

RP HAS 3/ A13

HANDOVER: INQUIRER president Alexander Prieto Romualdez (fifth from right) receives the symbolic "sandok" during the ceremonial handover of the AdBoard leadership as chair of the next Philippine Advertising Congress.

Inquirer president to chair 22nd PAC

By Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—THE most anticipated event during the 21st Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC), the Anvil Awards, turned into a celebration not only of industry creativity but also its capacity to produce results from investments.

Margot Torres, 21st PAC chair and vice president for marketing of McDonald's Philippines, said that for the first time in the history of the congress, the effectiveness of industry output—in terms of ads or campaigns—was considered a criterion for the selection of awardees.

"This is a shift that only started with this year's ad congress. For the first time, judges also

INQUIRER/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

YOU BETTER WATCH OUT Santa Claus of the EcoWaste Coalition leads a protest against toy with lead and other toxic substances that can adversely affect a child's development.

NY court lets Marcos case proceed

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT HAS junked various motions seeking to dismiss a petition of human rights abuse victims under the Marcos dictatorship to recover the $35-million Arelma account deposited in Merrill Lynch.

In a five-page ruling, Justice Charles Ramos of the State Supreme Court in Manhattan set for trial the human rights victims' petition to have Merrill Lynch turn over to them the $35 million or part of the nearly $1 billion in damages that a Hawaii court awarded to them in 1995.

Merrill Lynch, the Philippine National Bank and Arelma Foundation had filed motions opposing the victims' petition but Ramos dismissed them all and ordered that the petition be heard.

"The petition (of the victims) seeking a writ of turnover and execution is set down for a hearing...the parties shall appear for a pretrial conference for the purpose of scheduling a hearing on Dec. 15 at 10 a.m.," Ramos said.

"The balance of factors do not weigh in favor of dismissal of the petition for non-joinder...the Ferdinand would be left without an alternative forum to demonstrate (them) entitlement to the assets," he said.

The rights victims suffered a setback in 2007 when the US Supreme Court overturned a lower court ruling that had awarded the funds to the victims because the Philippine government did not participate in that case. The high court said the Philippines should be included in legal proceedings to determine who owned the account since its claims over the funds were "not frivolous."

But in his ruling, Ramos said that the US Supreme Court ruling was issued in a different context and, while it was "informative," the decision was "not binding on New York courts."

"In New York, dismissal for non-joinder is disfavored particularly where, as here, the party seeking relief would be left without a judicial remedy the absentee, even a sovereign absentee, elects not to participate, and dismissal would not bring the parties any closer to an all-inclusive resolution," Ramos said.

The justice noted that the rights victims had been "attempting to obtain satisfaction of the (Hawaii) judgment since 1995, and have yet to recover virtually any property."

"The (victims include) individuals who suffered tremendous crimes under (former) regime, including torture, kidnapping, death and the loss of loved ones," Ramos pointed out.

"Legal representatives of the (Marcos) Estate, including his heirs, concealed the existence of the Arelma account and other Marcos property, and even attempted to dissipate the assets in an effort to prevent satisfaction of the (Hawaii) judgment, resulting in a finding of contempt against them," he said.

"The prejudice to the (victims) that will result from dismissal is palpable," Ramos added.

The justice also noted that the Philippine government had yet to formally ask New York courts to recognize the Sandiganbayan decision in April that the $35 million be forfeited in favor of the government.

Loretta Ann Rosales, chair of the Marcos human rights victims group Claimants 1081, hailed the ruling and said she hoped the New York State Supreme Court would eventually order that the $35 million be given to the claimants.

Satur, Liza eye run as independent bets

By Christian V. Esguerra

MILITANT LAWMAKERS Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza will likely run as independent presidential candidates following the Nacionalista Party's forging of an alliance with the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) of Bongbong Marcos.

"Our thinking now is to run as independents," Ocampo told the reporters. "We think a possible alliance with the NP has become untenable."

Ocampo, who was imprisoned and tortured during martial law which was imposed by President Ferdinand Marcos, admitted receiving "negative feedback" following reports that he would be involved in the same ticket as the young Marcos. He said he himself was surprised when Sen. Manuel Villar's NP struck a formal alliance with the KBL.

He said Villar had made it clear in previous discussions with him that he would support his key issues on the military insurgency agenda—the full recovery of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth and compensation for victims of human rights violations during the Marcos dictatorship.

"I was surprised when Villar said 'let's not deal with the past' in response to Bongbong's statement that the Marcoses were not the ones in the offensive," Ocampo said.

"What we are asking for is closure on the accountability of the Marcos dictatorship to the people," he said.

Senator Adonis: Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales yesterday said she could not imagine Ocampo appearing on the same stage as Bongbong Marcos during campaign season. She described the alliance as a "bizarre arrangement."

"Can you imagine that while Satur will talk about human rights violations during the Marcos dictatorship, Bongbong will deny that his father was a dictator and a human rights violator," Rosales said in a phone interview with the reporters.

"Let's give dignity to the intelligence of the Filipino electorate," she said.

Villar's decision to get Bongbong Marcos into the NP's executive slate has placed Ocampo and Maza in a delicate position. On Friday, Villar and Marcos formalized their tie-up.

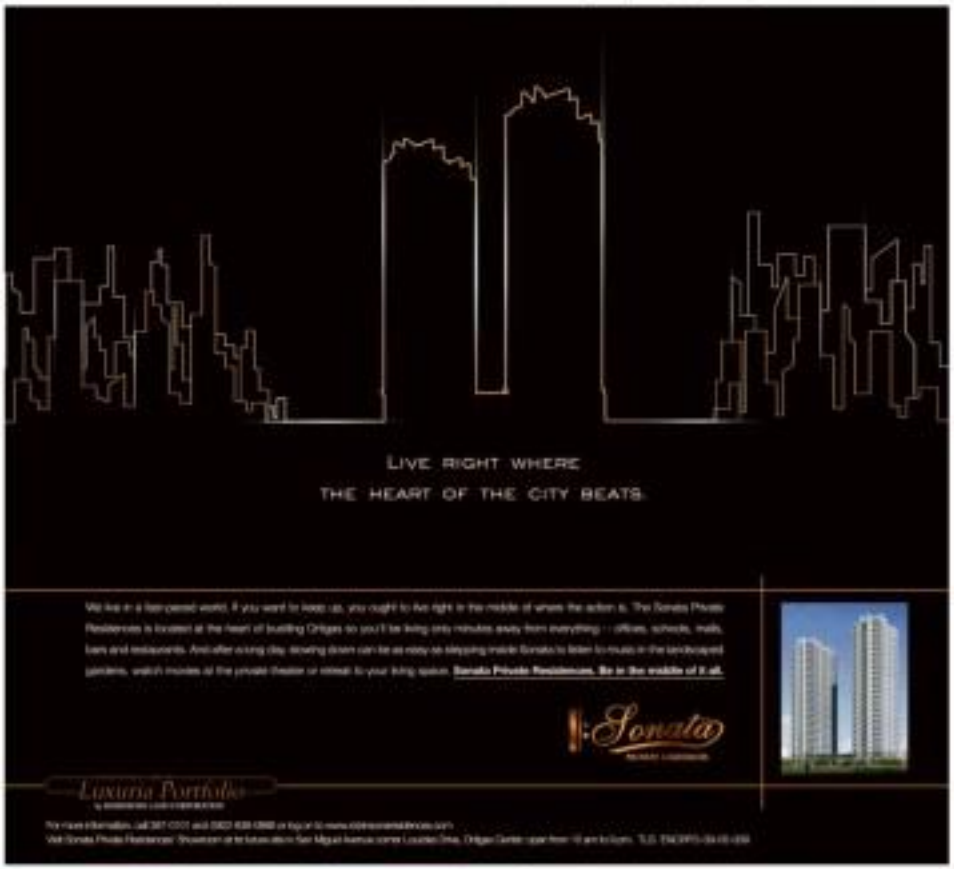
The first opinion poll OK with them? A lot of people are already asking why they're in the same ticket with Marcos. It does not vote question. their position to run for the Senate," said Rosales, whose militant party-list group is in ideological conflict with Ocampo's Bayan Muna.

OFWs who keep families together to be honored

THIRTY-FOUR OFW (OVERSEAS Filipino worker) families will be honored by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) on Nov. 26 at Solaire Hotel for their outstanding efforts at keeping parent-child relationships close despite at least one parent being away for periods of time.

The Model OFW Families of the Year Award 2009 (Mofya) shows that although long distance parenting is complicated, family members must effort to guide behavior, allow love and trust, observe family traditions, provide support, and otherwise keep the family together through various means like cell phones, e-mail, videos and mail, said Owwa Administrator Carmelita Sinson.

Labor Secretary Marianito Roque will announce two national awardee families to be selected from the 34 regional awardee families, one in the sea-based category and the other land-based. Special awards for outstanding achievements in community projects and entrepreneurship will also be given out.



Politics is a family thing, jockeying for posts shows

By Jo-Marlene Ciervano, Frinston Lim and Felipo V. Celino

AN UNCLE OF MISAMIS Occidental Rep. Filbert Tenorio Jr. is seeking the congressional seat in Tubod as inspired by Tenorio's wife.

Former Miss Universe Margarita "Margie" Moran-Floirendo is running for governor in Davao del Norte, one of the country's biggest banana producing provinces.

Commonwealth Senator Agrifinalum Undersecretary Jinkee Pacquiao has reportedly been encouraged by her husband, Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao, to run for governor in Davao del Sur.

These are some of the developments on the political front in the provinces as candidates began filing their certificates of candidacy (COC) for the next term occupied by his sister-in-law, Tubod Rep. Nilda Pinto-Tenorio.

Cojuangco, a member of Hacienda Luisita, and Tenorio, a member of Lakas-Kampi-CMD, are both allies of President Arroyo.

Cojuangco's nomination was signed by Lakas-Kampi-CMD chair emeritus Edmundo "Tanding" Cojuangco Jr., is running for representative in the first district which would possibly pit him against Pinto-Tenorio.

Cojuangco's nomination was signed by KBP president Prisco Jose Nieto. Cojuangco and three party mates running for board member in the first district were the first to file their COCs in Tubod.

H. COJUANGCO

PINTO-TEODORO

MORAN-FLOIRENDO

BOLANTE

Cojuangco-Teodoro, a former assemblywoman, would run in her second.

With the split between Teodoro's Lakas-Kampi-CMD and Tanding Cojuangco's NPC and between Teodoro and Gov. Imelda "Dinggoy" Aquino III, Teodoro's cousin and the mercurial, brainy of the Liberal Party mayor Tarhata Alfonsi are in a dilemma over whom to support.

Run, Margie, run

In Tagum City, Moran-Floirendo is seeking the governorship of Davao del Norte, according to her husband, former Rep. Antonio "Tonypoy" Floirendo Jr.

Speaking before reporters Friday, Floirendo Jr. said the decision of whom to run in the first district to be vacated by Rep. Antonio Lagdameo, the current administration party's chair for Davao del Norte.

Two women are also being tapped to move up a rank in the race here, opening up the administration party's candidacies for the top three provincial posts.

Governor's son

Reported to be running for the congressional seat in the first district is former Board Member Isidy Bolante, wife of former Tampakan Municipal Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez. She would be slated against former Vice Gov. Antonio Rafael del Rosario, the governor's son.

Former provincial board member Hidilyn Bolante-Diaz is eyeing the vice gubernatorial post against the incumbent, Victoria Bonggat Jr.

The would-be political rivals is seen as pre-marketing building the members of the Floirendo-Del Rosario clans against each other.

The two families behind Tagum Agricultural Development Co. (Tadeco), the country's largest banana exporter, are said to be at odds following the 2007 elections in which the elder Del Rosario ran for governor, a position said to be "reserved" for Tonypoy whose term as 2nd district representative was about to end then.

'Stay out'

In Davao City, Bolante, who is seeking the gubernatorial post under the Oggies Alto Cagay party, said Sanchez-Roman did not know the local political dynamics and should stay out of it.

Bolante was reacting to a statement made by Sanchez-Roman at a forum in Damosmo town on Nov. 17 where she told Cojuangcos to support the candidacies of her husband, Sen. Mar Roxas, and not those with records of corruption.

Sanchez-Roman said Cojuangcos should also support those who have not been investigated by the Senate blue ribbon committee, a reference to Bolante, accused of orchestrating the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

On his block-time radio program on RMN-DxRR Saturday, Bolante told Sanchez-Roman "you would not be a"cool this" person to instigate former Senator el- ers who had turned their backs on the senator because she was now in the Roxas family.

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Murder charge to be filed vs road rage suspect today

MURDER CHARGES will be filed today against an incumbent Makati who allegedly shot and killed the son of a Malacañang official during a traffic altercation last week, a police official said.

Chief Insp. Benjamin Ylanan, chief of the homicide section of the Quezon City Police District, said the suspect, Jason Salvador, 37, may have been hiding yielded negative results.

"Murder charges will be filed today based on the statements of three witnesses, after the raids on various houses yielded negative results. The least for him will continue until he is arrested or surrenders," Ylanan said.

He said Arbe would be charged before the City Prosecutor's Office in the death of Renato Victor Hande Jr., son of Presidential Chief of Staff Undersecretary Renato Hande Sr.

He said witnesses had identified Arbe as the person who repeatedly shot Hande on Wednesday night along Tandang Sora near Origas avenue in Barangay Bahayan after a traffic altercation.

"The witnesses have come forward and positively identified Arbe through photos shown by [police and police] Detective said.

According to witnesses, after their cars nearly collided on Tandang Sora, Arbe followed Hande's entrada, alighted from his car and repeatedly shot the victim at close range.

On Saturday, police raided the residence of singer Freddie Aguilar in New Manila and the homes of Arbe's stepfather, Stephen Pillard, at 16 and 23 Hibala Drive, Bluebridge A, Libis, Quezon City.

But lawyer Angelo Magno, head of the National Bureau of Investigation Special Action Force (SAF) whose agents raided the said addresses, said Arbe's mother, Marlene Aguilar.

The house in New Manila, Magno said, was the address reflected on the registration of the vehicle used by Arbe.

Pillard, a British economist at the Asian Development Bank, is the registered owner of the blue Honda CRV with diplomatic plate 20502, said by the report when he shot Hande.

Arbe is the son of Pillard's wife, Marlene Aguilar, from a previous marriage. Marlene is a sister of Freddie Aguilar.

"We have not been of the attitude used in the shooting, but we suspect the blue Honda CRV has already been hidden," Ylanan said.

Pillard has refused to yield the estate to the police, saying that he could not remember where he kept the keys of the vehicle.

DIG spokesperson Sr. Supt. Wilskie yesterday said that Injusco that the Arbe case was "purely a Philippine National Police matter now."

The DFA said earlier his cooperation Pillard, Arbe was "not covered by the diplomatic privileges given to foreign diplomats."

Ylanan said the raid on the three houses was in connection with Arbe's case in 2004 of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and damage to property.

"The raid was conducted on the virtue of the warrant of arrest issued by a Pasig City Judge in connection with his previous case," he said.

Also, he said, has an outstanding warrant of arrest for the death of Senior Fence, a Malacañang undersecretary, in 2006.

A Pasig City court in August 2004 charged Arbe with the death of Hance. Nancy C. Garrapid, Jocelyn R. Ga, Jeannette J. Andrade and Jerry Esplanada

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The Daily Gospel

Monday, November 23, 2009
34th Week in Ordinary Time
Oriental / Colombus

1st Reading: Rv 1:1-6, 9-20
Gospel: Lk 21:1-4

Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury box, he also saw a poor widow dropping in two small coins. And he said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow put in more than all of them. For all gave as offering from their plenty, but she out of her poverty, gave all she had to live on."

Commentary

Even though Daniel was unbroken in every religious requirement laid on the young captives, he drew the line at eating and drinking from the king's food or wine. Daniel's objection to the diet was based not on explicit prohibition in the word of God. He kept fast of the king's food and drink was that he would defile him. He knew that indulging in these fulfilling foods as an eternal and spiritual failure.

Daniel also knew very well that the conclusion of his course of action might be death. He set himself against the way the world would have him live. He was a young prince with the heart of a lion. He set out to God's own as pleased with him. If we go through life with our eyes open to moral questions, we will be careful about what practices we adopt. Scripture is often concerning many readers today, because they did not exist in Biblical times. But they are certainly inconsistent with moral principles found in scripture. No doctrine is ever more remarkable when we consider that he made it all alone. He had no prodding from parents or pastors. How many young people today would have stood with Daniel?

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OFW's kin decry slow repatriation of her remains

ABU DHABI—THE FAMILY OF A FILIPINO woman who died in a vehicular accident here in September has appealed to the Philippine government for help in bringing her remains back to the country.

Milagros Cortina, 46, of Iloilo, Iloilo, died after she was hit by a car driven by an Iraqi while she was crossing the street at midnight on Sept. 9.

Cortina, a seamstress, suffered head injury and fractured the mid limbs, according to the death certificate issued by the Health Authority of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Almost three months after the accident, Cortina's body is still at Dhabbi City Medical Hospital as repatriation proceedings had yet to begin.

"We are urging embassy to avail as Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) officials in Manila to immediately repatriate her body. We are saddened by the slow process. We can't mend the delay anymore," Chippe Serapio, the victim's cousin, said on Friday.

Serapio said she received a call from the hospital telling the family to get the body.

The hospital would be forced to bury the remains here or the family would be asked to pay a penalty for overstaying if the body is not repatriated before the end of the month, she said.

Serapio said the victim's daughter in the Philippines, Carmelita Cortina, had forwarded a special power of attorney on the 28th in Manila on Oct. 7.

"It is so sad to note that it took them so long. The police investigation here was over and the court already made a ruling last September. How come the repatriation proceeding has not been started yet? This is injustice. It is not fair," Serapio said.

Cortina, a mother of five, was the sole breadwinner of the family since her husband, a diabetic, could no longer work.

Philippine Consul General to the UAE Imad Sarajan said on Friday that the embassy had already asked the DFA for the necessary documents so repatriation proceedings could begin.

Jaime B. Balanchet, Czech Bacher

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DOJ to probe Ping on kidnap

A PANEL OF PROSECUTORS WILL look into allegations raised by the Philippine National Police (PNP) against Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson in connection with the alleged kidnapping of two businessmen of Chinese descent in 1998 and 1999.

A source in the Department of Justice said the panel would be formed this week to conduct a preliminary investigation into the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group's (CIDG) complaint against Lacson and 17 other respondents.

The CIDG alleged Cheng Ho Ming and Wong Kam Cheng were abducted on Dec. 30, 1998, and March 22, 1999, respectively by members of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (Pacot) and PNP Reaction Group.

Lacson at the time was the Pacot chief.

The CIDG has filed charges against Lacson and retired police general Reynaldo Acop with DOJ in connection with the alleged kidnapping of the two Chinese citizens.

In a six-page letter to acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera, the Metro Manila unit of the PNP-CIDG linked Lacson and then PNP Narcogroup head Acop to the abduction of "level-one drug lords" Cheng and Ming.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit based its information on an investigation started by the CIDG in 2001 of alleged crimes committed by members of the Pacot, Narcogroup and the PNP's regional investigation and intelligence division (RIID) in southern Tagalog.

"Among them illegal drug-related activities since the kidnapping of two suspected Chinese-level one drug lords identified as Wong Kam Cheng and Cheng Ho Ming," read the letter signed by Senior Supt. Robert Galido Jr., Metro Manila CIDG chief.

Investigators showed the two victims were never released and were still missing "despite the payment of huge ransom demanded by PNP-RIID officials."

Lacson has dismissed the complaints as an old one. He said the CIDG must signified the case with the DOJ but the latter referred it to the Ombudsman which is now dismissed it.

"The Ombudsman dismissed the case of kidnapping for ransom with so much illegal detention and immunified as information for client Infancy against several police officials before the Sandiganbayan which is presently handling the case," Lacson said.

He blamed the Arroyo administration for making life difficult for him since 2001 when it came to power.

"Ang ginagawa sa akin ng administration ito dinapo ang isa ay racing against time to make my life really miserable?" he said. Just-main Revolutions

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DSWD rates 100%—survey

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL Welfare and Development (DSWD) has again topped the latest assessment and performance survey of government agencies, posting a 100-percent assessment rating and an approval rating of 55 percent, according to Palse dumi Dhal ng Bayan.

The Department of Education and Department of Health also obtained high ratings in the survey conducted on Oct. 22-28, Pulse Asia said.

The survey showed a 106-percent national assessment rating for the DSWD in terms of its accomplishment and what it did for the people.

While the DSWD got second an approval rating of 65 percent, its disapproval rating was only 9 percent.

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral in a statement said the ratings were a big boost to the morale of DSWD personnel.

"We are assured the public and the service which we serve continue to recognize and feel satisfied with the way we deliver services to them," Cabral said.

The survey showed Cabral obtained a 53-percent approval rating, six points up from the 59-percent rating she received in August.

She also garnered a 73-percent national awareness rating, up 6 percent from August.

Respondents in Luzon gave the highest awareness of Cabral with 82 percent, while respondents in Mindanao gave her the highest approval rating of 51 percent on her performance.

The survey said that 61 percent of the respondents said the most important service they have received from the government during the worst typhoons was relief assistance.

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"I lost 50 pounds at Zunic!"
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Mr. Gil Yu chose Zunic because he saw the return of his investment instantly. "I wanted not just to lose weight now by enrolling in a gym. I lost 50 lbs. in a matter of weeks! It encouraged me to continue my treatments until I lost 20 lbs. more," he shares. His waist went from 48 to 35 inches.
When Gil Yu turned 48, he decided to enroll with Zunic because, he says, "I'm bigger at 48. But I honestly thought that I was a hopeless case." Gil was overweight at 220 lbs., and had high cholesterol levels and a fatty liver. He was taking anti-hypertensive maintenance medicines and was asked by his doctor to lose weight.
When he came to Zunic, he was determined to turn his life around. "As a businessman, I always look for the return on investment. You spend money, you expect something in return. And you don't spend lots of medicines because your illness will keep on recurring. You will never end up getting rid of the evil of the present."
"Since this is my life, why don't I invest in my health? After a week with Zunic, I already lost weight. I could see my return on investment immediately," lost 20 pounds after three weeks of treatment. I went down from 220 lbs. to 170 lbs. My waist line went down from 48 inches to 35 inches!" He enthusiastically shares.
Zunic's unique Slimming and Body Sculpting Methodology — which only the latest and the best in non-invasive slimming and body-sculpting technology currently available in the world in the hands of our well-trained medical staff — makes it possible for Zunic clients to lose record amounts of excess fat (and prevented inches) that are not possible using traditional slimming methods. Losses of 2 to 3 centimeters around the waist in 45 minutes are so common that our medical staff encourages their clients to lose weight gradually. Given this remarkable rate of loss, just imagine how much fat you could lose after a single month!
Gil is very proud to declare that he owes his new healthy and confident self to Zunic. "I'm now more confident to approach people. In the past, I just stayed in my office. When I was big, I was too lazy to attend meetings and just sent other people to do things for me. The confidence was to take charge because I wasn't able to talk to them personally. When I became lighter, everything I did became easier. I'm now more confident to go out and have clients. Even my memory became sharper."
The best part of enrolling with Zunic is you achieve results without the stress, exertion, anxiety and time-consuming regimens associated with traditional slimming methods.
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New import rules on bulk cargo take effect in Jan.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED TO JAN. 4 next year the effectivity of the new rules and procedures on imported shipments involving bulk and break-bulk cargoes.

To facilitate the release of bulk and break-bulk cargoes from the Bureau of Customs, Administrative Order (AO) No. 2-03-A and its implementing rules require a report of accredited surveying companies on each import shipments.

Under the new setup, accredited surveyors are to make a report on the quantity, quality, grade, price/value, and classification of bulk and break-bulk cargoes.

The Interagency Committee for Accreditation of Cargo Surveying Companies earlier announced that the new rules covering such cargo shipments would take effect on Dec. 15.

Various importers and other stakeholders, however, appealed to the committee to move the date of effectivity of the new rules to January next year.

President Macapagal-Arroyo issued AO 293-A to ensure the payment of correct duties and taxes on bulk and bulk-break cargo shipments while simplifying import procedures.

Inquirer president to chair 22nd PAC

From page A1

looked for the effectiveness of an ad or a campaign for a brand. I guess with the global economic crunch, that is also a sign of the changing times," Torres said.

The emphasis on delivering practical benefits from creative campaigns began with the downturn in the global economy, which also gave the event its theme even before typhoons struck the country and led to the transfer of the PAC venue from Baguio City to this June past.

Torres also led the turnover of chairmanship of the next advertising congress in 2011 to Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez.

Phyllis Glazer, PDI vice president for advertising, said the venue for the 22nd PAC had yet to be determined and decided upon. "But we are looking forward to organizing the next ad congress. It's going to be very exciting," he said.

At least 1,000 delegates attended the Anvil awards on Saturday night, the culmination of the 21st PAC that opened on Nov. 18.

Activities and discussions during the largest gathering of creative minds in the industry focused on the theme "Perspectives: Access to, give me (What do you think)?"

Originally slated to be held in Baguio, the congress was moved to Subic after typhoons battered the country in September and October. Monsoon landslides and floods damaged roads leading to the summer capital, prompting organizers to hold the event in Subic, the 20th PAC host in 2007.

The organizers decided to donate proceeds from the congress to efforts at rehabilitating typhoon-hit areas and to help victims recover.

Clemente Cuello, chair of the Advertising Board of the Philippines and vice president for advertising and promotion of Petron Corp., said the P1.5 million generated by ticket sales would go to the Philippine National Red Cross in Baguio.

Cuello said the recent disaster struck a chord in the advertising industry's heart. It "helped the industry refocus its efforts in commemorating positivism rather than purely commercial undertakings," she said.

"Despite the sudden change in venue, we can still look at this as a positive thing. And in the end, it worked out well for everybody. We're here to celebrate creativity, but we have also been able to contribute to our fellow countrymen," Torres said.

The Anvil Awards, hosted by Interlace EC and Troy Montero, began to heat up when the winners for the bronze, silver and gold awards were announced.

Categories included film, radio, print, outdoor, ambient and point-of-purchase, digital, direct response, design. Anvil craftsmanship awards and new media awards.

The most eagerly awaited awards of the night were for production house (10 Productions), media agency (Media Contacts Inc.), creative agency (DWA/Santiago, Mangada Punzi) and advertiser of the year (Unilever Philippines/Bayleo).

And as the rise of digital channels had been highlighted by congress speakers, a digital award was given, which went to IBBO Guerrero/Proximity Philippines.

The Kodak vision award for technical excellence in cinematography went to Gisela Martinez for "Pido," an ad for Smart®, by Ogilvy.

FOR BAGUIO RED CROSS Chairman Cuello, chair of the 21st PAC Ashboard, awards a symbolic check representing proceeds from visitor sales of the industry meeting, to Baguio Mayor Reynaldo Jr. for the Philippine National Red Cross chapter in his city. [illegible]

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Light rains seen over next 5 days

FOR THE NEXT five days, light to moderate rainshowers accompanied by mostly cloudy skies will hover over Metro Manila and parts of Luzon and the Visayas, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

"The high pressure which being experienced in China and Japan had allowed to bringing an scattered rainshowers," Pagasa forecaster on duty Alvar Acerbo told the Inquirer.

Pagasa said the Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

The weather bureau assured that if widespread rainy over Luzon will be experienced, they may trigger flashflash and landslides.

The weather advisory said extreme parts of northern Luzon would have mostly cloudy skies with scattered light rains, while the rest of Luzon would be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. — Nancy C. Carvajal

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6 Friday, 4 December — Sesquicentennial Awards for Excellence | Professional Schools Amoranto Campus, Makati City
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3 Monday, 7 December — Ateneo 100@150 Telethon: A Fundraising for Scholarships | Professional Schools Amoranto Campus, Makati City
2 Tuesday, 8 December — Inauguration & Blessing of the new Rizal Library | Professional Schools Amoranto Campus, Makati City
1 Wednesday, 9 December — Loyola Schools Agenda on Peace Build Launch | Professional Schools Amoranto Campus, Makati City
Thursday, 10 December — Sesquicentennial Anniversary Mass | Professional Schools Amoranto Campus, Makati City
Friday, 11 December — High School Week 2 Sesquicentennial Production | Professional Schools Amoranto Campus, Makati City
Saturday, 12 December — Sesquicentennial The Big Night & Grand Alumni Homecoming | Professional Schools Amoranto Campus, Makati City

For updates and a detailed calendar of events, visit 150.ateneo.edu or contact the Office of University Development and Alumni Relations at 426.6001 ext. 4001 to 05 or 150@ateneo.edu.

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INQUIRER

In fun run, Erap shows he's fit for presidency

From page A1

a lot," he said, saying he was the "Boom-boom."

"Eye doesn't matter and I always say I am the most experienced among the presidential candidates," said Estrada, whose knees have been replaced with titanium ones.

"I've been a local executive for 17 years, I've been a senator for five years, I've been a vice president for six years and three and a half as president. So, more or less I know the overall problems of our country," he said.

Estrada said he would file his certificate of candidacy before noon on Barilocho Day, Nov. 30. He said the day would have significance, he's spirited for the masses.

"Andres Bonifacio is the hero of the masses," he said.

Prepared for challenges

Estrada said he was prepared for challenges to his candidacy. "We have retired justices with us, dozen of law schools, dozen of UP Alumni, UE," he boasted.

Cenizo said the convicted plunderer predicted by President Macapagal-Arroyo would run again, citing a constitutional ban on a president seeking reelection. However, Estrada said that the Constitution referred to a sitting president.

"People are asking why am I running again," he said. "My term was unceremoniously disrupted and I was unconstitutionally removed so I was unable to implement my pro-poor programs."

Estrada said he would not turn his back on the poor, even if the reason he had to go to jail. "I have no compromise what they've done for me," he explained.

He said his party, Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), will come up with a complete senatorial slate, including his son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Senator Pimentel, Juan Ponce Enrile, Sen. Miriam Santiago, Ex-Senate and Agusan del Sur Rep. Ompong Plaza.

Talks are under way for the inclusion into the PMP senatorial lineup of the daughter of the late movie actor Fernando Poe Jr., Grace, and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, detained on rebellion charges.

Oumuka welcome

Estrada also revealed that the door was open for former Sen. Sergio "Serge" Osmeña III, who last week left the Liberal Party of Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, expressing disappointment at "infighting" among various factions in the campaign.

"I admire Senator Osmeña. He's a man of principle, his integrity unquestionable," he said. "We love to have him in our ticket."

"We have not asked him yet but with open arms we will accept him to have his name as our guest candidate for senator," he said.

But in a strange twist, Estrada declared that the party could also include as a "guest candidate" administration Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. in its senatorial lineup.

Fundraising for Moymoy

In Quezon City, California, a crowd of 500 mostly Filipinos attended a fundraising lunch for Aquino.

A highlight was a recorded message from Aquino who, speaking in Tagalog, thanked Filipinos in America and other countries overseas and urged them to continue their support for his campaign.

The rally was the third in a series organized by the US Friends for Noynoy-Mar Movement, whose leaders include distant relatives of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

With a report from Lira Kintanar, contributor

Unilab's manufacturing subsidiary gets EU-GMP certification

Amherst Laboratories, Unilab's state-of-the-art manufacturing subsidiary in Mamplasan, Laguna, has obtained the European Union Good Manufacturing Practice (EU-GMP) certification — a first for any pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in the Philippines.

The certification came through the European Medicines Agency (EMEA), a decentralized body of the EU which protects and promotes public health through the evaluation of medicines being sold in EU member-states.

The EU-GMP certification signifies Amherst's compliance with EU's standards on the quality, safety, and efficacy of the medicines it produces, which elevates Amherst to world-class status.

Tantamount to a license to sell, the EMEA certification gives Amherst the opportunity to manufacture for and export its products to member-states of the EU, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway.

Amherst Laboratories is a 24,000 sqm facility with state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment such as a computerized process control and monitoring system and an automatic clean-in-place system for production equipment and pipelines, all designed to ensure the highest level of product quality.

Because of Amherst's conformity to world-class standards of quality in manufacturing, consumers can rest assured that the medicines they buy are safe and effective — a concrete first step downstream of Unilab's promise to provide trusted quality healthcare to consumers.

Unilab 'yan!

Lakas-Kampi face

From page A1

president for Mindanao, as the coalition proclaimed resigned Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. as its presidential candidate, and actor and TV host Eduardo "Edu" Manzano, as his running mate.

The proclamation at the Philippine International Convention Center on Thursday before 5,000 party faithful took a surreal color as President Macapagal-Arroyo handed over the coalition's chairmanship to Teodoro and urged the party faithful, "Let us transform the Lakas-Kampi-CMD Party of the present to become the party of the future."

She said that party had been the dominant force in 13 of the last 17 years, with members comprising 72 percent of national and local officials. She said that since the merger of Lakas-CMD and Kampi had been upheld by the Commission on Elections, it was "now time to consolidate our ranks and fortify our party for the electoral battle ahead."

Ms Arroyo added: "Let us get them elected now as big a mandate as you can today's in the countryside and urban centers can win from any people."

Glaring cracks

As the President spoke, glaring cracks in the façade of the monolithic party structure appeared to throw doubt on the party's invincibility and to expose the hollowness of its structure.

Former President Fidel Ramos, who founded Lakas as his political vehicle to win the 1992 presidential election, the first after the ratification of the 1987 Constitution, with a narrow margin of 24 percent, was conspicuously absent at the proclamation of the party's presidential vice presidential team.

The 1992 election was a benchmark for the incumbency of the multiparty system as a backlash of the neo-party regime to the Marcos dictatorship. Ramos had denounced the merger of Lakas with Kampi as an alliance that was

RP has 3 nominati

From page A1

enough that people appreciated my hard work. It's time the world took notice of Filipino talents. It's our time to shine," Loisin, 28, told reporters shortly before she left for the United States on Thursday.

Loisin has been nominated for her role as she and Lyka Raymundo in the TV series "Love" (The Pool) that aired in January 2008 on ABS-CBN. It also featured fashion idol Dido Pascual as lead actor. Cathy Garcia-Molina directed.

Loisin is competing against actresses Janina de Castro for her performance in "Night Birds," produced by Clee Wan, France Guillo Suarez for her work in "Capadocia," produced by BBC Latin America; Originals, Mexico; and Julie Walters for her portrayal of a woman diagnosed with an untreatable degenerative disease in "A Short Film in Switzerland," produced by the BBC, United Kingdom.

Vanie Veneza is the first Filipino nominated for best actress in the International Emmys for her role as courtesan-turned-first lady Imelda Marcos in the 1986 film "A Dangerous Life."

The International Emmys honor excellence in TV programming produced outside of the United States. The awards night will be held on the Hilton Hotel in New York and will highlight 41 nominees from 17 countries competing in 33 categories.

Best telenovela

Two other shows from the Philippines have been nominated in the category of best telenovela: "Magkano Ka" (Seller) produced by GMA 7, which premiered in May 2008; and "Bahid Itong Sugat" (A Time For Us) a

s 'big bang' crash

ions for Emmys

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What's more, applicants for any Allied Bank credit card from July 15 to December 31, 2009, get a free Every-Roll bag upon activation and use.*

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Road rage

EDITORIAL

THE VICIOUS MURDER OF THE SON OF A MALACañang executive last Wednesday, by all accounts the victim of a traffic altercation gone horribly wrong, raises disturbing questions. Why did the alleged suspect, 23-year-old American Jason Ivler, drive around in a vehicle with diplomatic plates, when (it has since been established) he himself does not enjoy the status of a diplomat? Why is Ivler free to drive around in the first place, when he was charged for reckless imprudence resulting to the death, through a vehicular accident, of yet another Malacañang official in 2004? And what is the moral obligation of Ivler's stepfather, a high official of the Asian Development Bank resisted re-diplomatic privileges, the very person who allowed Ivler the opportunity to use a vehicle with diplomatic plates in the first place, as far as cooperating with the police is concerned?

Justice for Benson Victor Eberle Jr., son of Undersecretary Renato Eberle Sr., demands a satisfactory answer to these and similar questions.

We will not discount the possibility that the man witnesses described as the killer, and which the authorities have identified as none probably Ivler, was, quite literally, a fatal accident waiting to happen. He had figured in a nightmarish smash-up five years before, his Land Cruiser running into the Tongue of Nestor Ponce, the presidential adviser for resettlement, on the C5 Ortiga Bypass. Ponce was killed. But Ivler apparently escaped all accountability for the accident. He slipped away from the hospital where police officers had confined him, tried to leave for Malaysia but was arrested in Zamboanga City and then—nothing. To date, the authorities do not know what the status of this earlier case is, or how Ivler got around that second arrest. Given this kind of close, thrilling brush with the law, Ivler may have thought that he could get away with murder, if he needed to.

Of course, road rage is not a merely local phenomenon; in other countries, too, traffic arguments have occasioned similar violence.

And yet: We recognize the truly tragic thing about the shooting. It was not unexpected. It had happened before, and will continue to happen again. A man with a gun hidden in his car; heavy traffic; emotional driving discipline; a culture of lax law enforcement—under these conditions road rage can turn fatal.

Again, we are not in any way suggesting that Ivler's conduct, if indeed it is proven beyond doubt that it was him who stepped out of the driver's seat and shot the unfortunate Eberle at close range, can be excused by the failings of the state. We only wish to emphasize that such outbursts of violence can be greatly ameliorated in the future if enforcement of the law truly becomes the rule, rather than the exception.

The problem is, driving in the more urbanized parts of the Philippines can be a sort of parkour even for the most mild-mannered of law-abiding citizens. Drivers who routinely break the law—creating new lanes, brazenly running left in No Left Turn intersections, dangerously cutting corners—are also routinely rewarded; perhaps traffic aides and police officers do our measure, perhaps they only mean to clear an intersection, but the result is the same. Routinely, violations of traffic rules are rewarded: Those in the counter-flow are allowed to move first, jaywalkers are allowed to dawdle on corners.

It is any wonder that a person with a gun in the glove compartment can be tempted to channel Jules Winnfield and take the law into his own hands?

The problem is enforcement.

Again, we do not mean to ignore the personal responsibility of the driver who actually pulled the trigger and killed the young Eberle. But consider this: When Ivler was arrested by PNP agents in Zamboanga City in 2004, he was attempting to escape to Malaysia—under police escort!

Don't rush

FOREIGN COMMENT

THERE'S STILL UNDOUBTEDLY SUN SHINING THE NEXT few ... weeks, as officials try to piece together what led an Army psychiatrist to go on a shooting rampage, killing 13 people and wounding 30 others at Fort Hood in Texas.

... This is a horrendous incident, believed to be the worst mass shooting at a US military base, and, at this point, there are more questions than answers.

The public should withhold any rush to judgment. ... But let's hope a methodical investigation will provide answers to temper all the speculation.

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Opposing the Mindoro nickel project

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

INTO THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION IN its "do battle" mode, many public officials and opportunistic businessmen are scrambling to get juicy contracts from the government and provide for their future in the last two minutes before it bows out of office. ("Do battle" refers to the old practice of opening the doors of the movie house to the public for free in the last half-hour or so before the theater closes.) In the last few months left in the Arroyo administration, many government contracts get approved under questionable circumstances.

Some of these projects are duly approved several times the government, and government agencies approve as many applications as possible before the new administration takes over and, in so doing, provide for a future when they will be public officials. Then there's hope that if there is something wrong with the permit, it is up to the next administration to implement it or not. The outgoing officials have collected their part of the loot anyway.

This can also be done to shut off investigations on and sustain a lot of time and money of the government, considering how slow the wheels of justice move in the Philippines. There should be a law that would nullify all contracts approved in the last year of a lame-duck administration. The new president should have time to study projects and to investigate order remedies if anomalies forged by the outgoing administration to prevent midnight contracts and appointments.

The expiring parliamentary mess is the issuance of environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to foreign mining companies, in partnership with Filipino firms, to put up mining operations on the island of Mindoro. The DENR gave the ECC to a Norwegian mining company, Intex Resources, to extract nickel from 1,100 hectares of forest area in a watershed lying in parts of the two Mindoro provinces. Anyone living on, or claiming, the land was granted his usual mining operation on 60,000 hectares in Mindoro Occidental.

The officials and citizens of Mindoro, including the native Mangyans who would be ejected from their ancestral lands, oppose the mines but the DENR issued the ECCs anyway, saying that the ECCs were based on technical requirements and that it is up to the next administration to decide whether or not to comply with requirements regarding social acceptability.

Mindoronons, including two priests, have started a campaign similar in intent to the DENR offices in Quezon City, vowing to continue it until the DENR rescinded the ECC or until they die. Without the ECC, Intex will not be allowed to operate. Instead of revoking it, the DENR merely suspended it for 90 days.

Not good enough, say the Mindoronons. After 90 days, we would be back to square one. The ECC has to be nullified.

Before the weekend, Environment Secretary Lito Atienza turned a taxpayer-like level government official when he said that not only the controversial mining project, despite the issuance by his office of the ECC, "if the people of Mindoro do not want the project, the ECC would automatically be nixed, in accordance with law." (Lawyers say?)

But the DENR is "disrespectful of our local autonomy," said Mindoro Oriental Gov. Alfonso Umalipat. The province has an existing 20-year moratorium on mining, issued back in 2000. But it leaves it to the Arroyo administration to scrape as much as it can from the remaining days in office, even as it is supposedly "respecting local autonomy." Intex can only ship mining paraphernalia it is going out to superbloggers, mass government propaganda—land, dams, power projects, reforestation—**anything that is not nailed down ... are being sold.** Angie Ibon, source of Metro Manila's water supply, is being sold to a power company when power is only a minor component. The major components are water for irrigation and water supply. The Reed Steamship Inc. outgunned JFE Urdja Topaz has already been sold. They tried to sell the Ninoy Aquino Memorial Medical Center compound in Quezon City to a foreign land developer but the people vehemently opposed the proposed sale.

Last Saturday, Mindoronons led by Vice Governor Alcaron, Abra de Ilog Mayor Eric Constantino and Fr. Edu Gariguez of the Mangyan Mission explained to journalists at the Sophias in Iloilo Iatrum why they oppose the Mindoro Nickel Project.

1. The project is located in the Mag-asawang watershed, which is the source of irrigation for some 50,000 hectares of rice fields in the municipalities of Victoria, Naujan and Calapan, Oriental Mindoro. These three municipalities are responsible for 35 percent of the total rice production in the province.

3. This mining area and that on Abra de Ilog are thickly forested and are major biodiversity conservation areas. They are breeding grounds of the tamaraw, an indigenous pygmy buffalo that exists only in Mindoro. The mining operation would cut down the trees and raze the areas, thus removing the habitat for countless bird species and other animals. In fact, some people believe that the mining operations are just a ploy to get at the trees. Then, the mining operations would also be disguised logging operations. The mines's processing site falls within the Siburan Island/Tamaraw Habitat Biodiversity Area.

3. The project is inside the environmentally sensitive watersheds of Abra de Ilog and Tadlawan/Manggawa. Mining will have great impacts on their fertilized soil nutrients.

4. The province of Oriental Mindoro has passed a 25-year moratorium on mining in 2002 prohibiting the entry of all large-scale mining. In Occidental Mindoro, similar mining moratorium ordinances were passed by the municipal governments of Sablayan, Abra de Ilog, Looc, Lubang and Lubang. Eight of 11 municipalities in the Island Mindoro passed resolutions against the Mindoro Nickel Project.

The great forgetting

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ON THE FACE OF IT, DAPO SOANG BORSING, the march seems over. That is the presidential election next year.

The field has narrowed down to two: Manny Villar and Loren Legarda of the Nacionalista Party and Jejomar Binay and Mar Roxas of the Liberal Party. Chiz Escudero is gone, though the scuttlebutt is that he might yet go for the vice presidency as an independent. Erap is presumably gone too, his chase with the Supreme Court just a distraction anymore.

There are of course Gilbert Teodoro and Edu Manzano, but they figure in the presidential race only in the sense way that their loss figures in world affairs. I read the other day that Gilbert was down to single digits in the last Pulse Asia survey, which had him rating from 6 to 2 percent. It reminded me of a friend of mine who once told me triumphantly: "Great news! Fred Astaire is the ranks of Madison 6-day Clean 2x!" I'm next to quitting!

The field is down to two, but if that same survey is to be believed, it is a no contest. The gap between Noynoy and Villar, which is 25 percent, is bigger than Villar's base, which is 19 percent. It cannot help Villar encourage that he has taken in (cross us his running mate. It's a final mistake.

The banks flew swiftly after SP announced the team up. Sandra Blackgirl immediately depicted Loren's moves as "the politics of prostitution." It reminds a lot boarders to (cover). Tagalog. Had Sandra ever been a woman, Loren might have had every reason to protest the double standard. A man sleeps with the enemy, it is called a triumph; a woman sleeps with the enemy, it is called the world's oldest profession. A man screws his principles to the point, he is brave. I wouldn't be surprised if Loren, to prove she is being hooked in through the prism of male eyes, has a thing or two to say about Sandra's gender; now that the gloves are off.

Victory, in the case of Loren, however, is to just underscored. Loren was deeply critic of Villar, and vowed to unearth the truth about 25. She ended up unearthing only the truth about herself. At the very least, it's got to smack of opportunism.

Is this just par for the course in Philippine politics? Maybe the argument can always be made that in this country the phrase, "politics of prostitution," is redundant. It's in the nature of our politicians to sleep around, so, since falling into the arms of Hoodsbros is the last thing they want to do, to screw themselves and their constituents. Sometimes it's literal.

Unfortunately for Villar Loren, it drives home more forcefully to the minds of the public the contrast between them and Noynoy Mar. The latter, real or imagined, rightly or wrongly, are destined by the public to be "different from the others"—idealistic, whimsical, decent, the inevitable harbingers of change. Same thing, I, think elections have ceased to be defined by money, organization, machinery, trade-offs, and debts and admiration, wheeling and dealing. They have been defined by image and perception. Should the antithesis between the two camps build—light and dark, experience and principle, looking out for Number One and serving the people—the gap between Senator Mar and Gloucy Loren is bound to widen.

On the face of it, signs are ang Aalong. Ito. Ito naman. It's not just that the good die young and the wicked prosper. It's that they like to remain as such. The Liberal Party does, which raises all sorts of questions about "good" in the first place. The Liberal Party's biggest enemy is not the Nacionalista or Lakas-Kampi. The Liberal Party's biggest enemy is the Liberal Party.

It's a cinch that it has other bad problems with itself, as is otherwise. They never saw who the real presidential candidate was, insisting on Mar until the real choice was framed so that the candidate would emerge from the outside. And they never saw what brought Noynoy to the top from the start, which was the public perception that "he is different," drawn as he was from the ilalo of heroes, and capable of epic aspirations. They themselves were never held long on making him out to be "no better than the others," if not indeed "not another type."

The case of Senate Deanella already sucks, smacking as it does of embarrassing expediency for principle, if not downright opportunism. Ito ba ang pinaka-ayaw ni Noynoy? Ito ba ang pinaka-ayaw ni Noynoy? Ito ba ang pinaka-ayaw ni Noynoy?

When churchmen campaign

HOW LONG IS THE TRUE DUTY OF CHURCHmen who hold positions of authority when, from the pulpit or through official pronouncements, they threaten politicians who support positions not to their liking with a church-organized campaign against them in the 2010 elections? This can happen, for instance, against legislators who support House Bill 5043, commonly known as the Reproductive Health (RH) Bill.

As election time approaches, legislators or political legislators who support the bill may find themselves in well-financed (bankroll threatened) by what might be called a "Catholic vote"—even if I myself do not believe that such a phenomenon exists.

There are two legitimate ways of looking at pressures from churchmen in the context of House bill 5043.

The first is the constitutional approach. The pertinent position taken by some churchmen is supposed by their constitutional right to the free exercise of religion and freedom of expression. They have every right to propagate what they believe to be morally correct, even if they might be wrong. I have always maintained that when a person becomes a public official, he does not surrender his rights as a Filipino citizen, he even retains his right to make a fool of himself.

Constitutionally, I would even defend their right to pressure legislators who do not agree to follow their dictates under threat of loss of votes. Even the Code of Ethics of the penal provisions of the Election Code. Such behavior would be less objectionable than earlier church tactics such as the banning of boxers or the stoning of the adulterous woman.

As a churchman myself living apart away from the culture of the Middle Ages, I would offer arguments why a churchman should not use the pressure approach. Let me summarize my reasons. I have also borrowed some points made by a colleague of mine who has written some years

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

ago on the subject.

First, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines in their Second Plenary Council strongly pronounced that "the other great part in public life, politics, educating and deciding for youth, would tend to weaken their teaching authority and destroy the unity they represent and protect." And no one high ranking official has ever said, to defend to parishioners whom to vote for or not to vote for it "is bad as having their wives."

Understanding the Bishops' Conference while unwilling as a body to endorse or disapprove national candidates, expressed its willingness to use individual bishops endorse or denounce candidates for locally elected positions.

Where a bishop does this from his position of authority and in official pronouncements, the inevitable conclusion that can be drawn is that the act is a partisan political intervention by the Church as an institution. This goes in the opposite direction of the CBCP's 1998 "Catechism on Church and Politics" which denied the existence of a "Catholic vote." "The correct fact is no that a bishop initiated campaign against a political candidate otherwise suggests what a Catholic vote should be. Such a campaign would tend to undermine episcopal teaching authority and destroy the unity it professes to represent and protect.

Another point I would emphasize is that in some of the laity and of the voting public are not mindless automatons. They are intelligent beings who under God are governed by the primacy of conscience. Indeed, the Church has a duty to help a person humble in his conscience when choosing among electoral candidates, but helping him or her to form conscience is different from imposing on a person the choice of whom to vote for. Recently, for instance, when in Charleston, South Carolina a pastor told his parishioners that any person who votes for Obama should get no communion, now before receiving communion, he was refused by the new bishop.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has put it succinctly. It declared that "the Church's Magisterium does not wish to exercise political power or eliminate the freedom of opinion of Catholics regarding 'contingent questions.' Instead, it intends...as is its proper task, to instruct, sanctify and illuminate the consciences of the faithful, particularly those involved in political life, so that their actions may always serve the integral promotion of the human person and the common good."

Clearly, HB 5043 is a very controversial piece of legislation involving "contingent questions." Therefore, churchmen should humbly unable to agree to disagree with it totally. It is a mixed bag, and even if it becomes law, controversy will continue in effect around it. I would have it to the conscience of individual legislators and voters how they should deal with the "contingent questions" arising from the bill.

Finally, the use of pressures on voters, even for religious reasons, is not much different from shotgun or money politics. When religious leaders use pressure politics, they serve to perpetuate bad politics. There is now a bad climate for an end to the traditional politics. Pressure politics is traditional politics.

When the smoke of political battles have cleared, no important task will be unification and cooperation in the promotion of the general welfare. Those who have aligned themselves with the "winning" candidates and the "losing" ones find themselves diminished in their capacity to contribute to the task. It would be unfortunate if bishops who have an important role to play in the progress of our country will find themselves sidelined because, unable or unwilling to debate, they have chosen to threaten instead.

Why Ang Ladlad should thank the Comelec

AFTER READING THE DECISION OF THE SECond Division of the Comelec on the petition of Ang Ladlad for accreditation as a sectoral party under the party-list system, my reaction was more disappointment or frustration, much less disenchantment or anger. It was, in fact, happiness. Not because I agree with the decision, apparently backed up by religious texts, of the "three musgos"—as those responsible for the decision were called by one blogger—that Ang Ladlad "deserves immoral, by which officials religious beliefs," and whose acceptance will "compromise the well-being of the greater number of our people, especially the young." It is precisely because I disagree that I am elated.

Regardless of the eventual outcome of Ang Ladlad's petition for accreditation, the decision means a new era in Philippine constitutional law. We have now entered the discursive of substantive equality of the type of freedom and political process would today confront. And because Ang Ladlad will be at the center of this development, they have the very opportunity to exalt the law's development and gain political mileage out of it. They can easily thank Macalintal for it, and God, for this gift.

What the Comelec has done is to sanction, with the use of public authority, prejudice against homosexuals. In constitutional law, this is equivalent to "state action," which now acts Ang Ladlad with the power to raise the Equal Protection and the Due Process clauses of the Constitution in any appropriate domestic and, perhaps, even international forum. That is no ordinary consequence.

Prior to the Comelec's decision, prejudice against homosexuals by opinion writers, columnists, religious leaders and political persons could be considered, as a matter of doctrine, "private discrimination" which, however irrational and hateful, is not actionable in the state. We can hobby these bigots out of classrooms, newspaper columns or coffee shops all we want, but

COMMENTARY

Florin T. Hilbay

we cannot go in courts and ask the speakers to stop and apologize. Given that the Comelec is a public institution, registered parties can now say that because the Constitution recognizes equality and nondiscrimination as basic tenets, the conviction or gaze of the state such as the Supreme Court are obligated to reverse and remedy the grave abuse of discretion committed here. Otherwise, the prejudice of the members of the Comelec will be transformed into official state policy.

From these two thus confident about the capacity of the Supreme Court to correct this constitutional violation should nonetheless rejoice. This is because the decision of the Comelec has given Ang Ladlad an a formal platform for academic and legal discourse. In the narrow sense, there is now an opportunity for students of the Constitution to talk about discrimination against homosexuals because they have a concrete case to study in class; in the larger sense, this discussion will be part of the more mainstream of issues and future policymakers. Whereas before, academics and advocates could only talk about discrimination against homosexuals in a cultural sense, today the Comelec has, by its narrow-mindedness, given rights activists a very tempting point that can potentially bring together previously unpublicized and unconnected supporters into the debate. On the conservative front, the traditional example for the emergence of a mass movement is the decision of the US Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade, a controversial case that allowed to terminate pregnancy which is said to have transformed Catholics into a national "pro-life" voting bloc. Gay-rights supporters may now find out that they have something to learn from the experience of those with whom they disagree.

Those who study the history of constitutional law in these islands will notice that the debates on sexuality have always been the most controversy-transforming path. We have never had the kind of civil rights movement here of the kind that has legally emancipated blacks and women, even if no oppressive racism and sexism are still in evidence. At some point, Congress discriminated against the Chinese and Filipinos based on the economy, but even today many distinctions on the basis of nationality are constitutionally unpalatable because under a more open economy we expect more privileges than non-citizens.

The Philippines is a deeply religious country. Some precisely because the petitioners have an evidence of the republic who from been specifically singled out. In essence, what the Comelec has done is to declare the entire gay lesbian, bisexual and transgender community constitutionally inadequate and therefore unworthy of the equal law. This not only flies in the face of the policy of the party-list system—to let the market of electors decide who they wish to send to Congress; it is also one of the most egregious violations of the principle of equal protection that guarantees citizens the right to participate in the political life of the state. By denying accreditation to Ang Ladlad, the Comelec disqualifies a substantial number of Filipinos from the game of political warfare called democracy. This is fundamentally unfair because, as a group of human beings, they are entitled to seek recognition, meaning and happiness within the confines of a pluralistic constitutional regime. It is tragic enough that they are sometimes subjected to humiliation by an insensitive society; it is worse when such malevolence is sanctioned by the very institution that exists to protect them.

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Good Frodo and Evil Gollum

IN BOOK TWO OF "THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE Ring," Celebrey, elven ex-ruler of Lothlórien, speaks directly to the readers as much as to the fellowship when he counsels, "Do not despise the lore that has come down from distant years; for oft it may chance that old wives keep in memory a seed of things that once were unwilled for the wise to know."

Chances are you've read or watched "The Lord of the Rings," Tolkien's saga in three volumes of how a reluctant hero is tasked with destroying a Ring of Power as a unyielding alliance of Hobbits, humans, elves and dwarves rise up and fight a titanic battle against the evil Sauron and his gruesome dark hordes. The epic is about Good and Evil, and how individuals can be one or the other, or more accurately, people in books can maybe be of people in real life. (But there is a need of courage hidden (often deeply, it is true) in the heart of the lowest and most timid hobbit, waiting for some ill to rouse it, and despite its danger to make it grow."

In Book Two, the message is magnified in more strange measures (could the shoes' and the elf ill. tune), representatives of races that do not like each other but now allied in a common quest, "are the two will disagree on how to approach the physical and even moral perils of their quest.

Toothless old man Gandalf the Grey, "the good old dunbear," the action-oriented Uriah starts off. Ill-tend the jaded elf replies, "Maybe, but in him not you to walk in the dark, who has not seen the night fall." Uriah counters, "He seems tired. Any strengthen speaking heart," only for Gimeal to pang, "Gandalf is not weary," to "yet bright." This is the one that's conflict between points and realists.

At a time where there's a general desire to see righteousness reign in our politics, there is no

THE LONG VIEW

Wenceslao L. Quevedo III

great a danger of self-righteousness invading to discordant voice, learning, an one hand, on impossible standards for individuals while ignoring the need for a consensus cannot be reached the greater danger. This is the danger of pride-attending the true consciousness.

Quite early on in Book One of "The Fellowship of the Ring," in the second chapter, the well-to-do Hobbit Bilbo Baggins celebrates his birthday. His distinguished previous holder of the Ring of Power from whom Frodo's uncle, Bilbo, had taken the ring, throughout the saga Gollum represents the problem of Frodo the Good, inspiring the actions, answers, and most other issues, deceitful, autocratic of the governing Evil Gollum.

From the very start, Frodo the Hobbit's kind thing to have to engage the help of bad people and will Gandalf, "He deserves death." Gandalf's answer is instructive, having drawn a theme that will pertain to the end of the saga, as he repeatedly counsels the members of the Fellowship of the Ring against the perils of confusing the righteousness of their cause with the practice of self-righteousness.

"Deserved it! I daresay he does," Gandalf agrees, but adds, "Many that live deserve death. And some that die deserve life. Can you give it to them? Then do not be too eager to deal out death in judgment. For even the very wise cannot see all ends. I have not much hope that Gollum can be cured before he dies, but there is a chance of it. And he is bound up with the fate of the King. My heart tells me that he has some part to play yet, for good or ill, before the end, and when that comes, the pity of Bilbo may rule the fate of many—yours not least."

Tolkien repeatedly returns to this theme of redemption—whether partial or complete—for the bad, or the barely-outlined, a possibility that should temper the self-righteousness of characters themselves fully capable of departing—temporarily but in time, disastrously—from the path of righteousness. Pride, the perpetually potent sin, finds its fullest expression in self-righteousness and which forms Good and promotes Evil.

As the old Inkhi of Lórien, responding to the hidden tag and simmering tensions between allies, points out in another chapter of Book Two: "In nothing is the power of the Dark Lord more clearly shown than in the contempt that divides all those who will oppose him."

Gandalf himself, in Book Three, returns to the basic lesson Inkhi propounded: "We are all friends now. We have to be, for the laughter of Mordor will be great indeed if we fall out." In our own present, it is not quarrels but something to return to again, much later on in Book Five, where once again self-righteousness has provoked discord and to which he reply is, "Let us remember that a better story better by himself and do good that he does not intend. It can be so, sometimes."

Hope in the ordinary Good to conquer Evil—be at the heart of hope is the humility to give all a chance to help fight Evil, without exercising at motives. A humility based on belief in redemption for those who once served Evil. Frodo could not do it alone, he needed help. Sam, Gollum, Aragorn and much of it tainted by mixed motives as shown by the thoroughly bad Gollum.

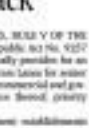
Every character wrestled with the dilemma of fighting for Good yet being confronted by Evil, internal and external. Hope exhibited pride, humility and redemption and it is in Good allowed individuals as well as kingdoms to conquer the Ultimate Evil, Sauron.

As the fair elven Galadriel had told the impressionable dwarf Gimli in Book Two, "I do not foretell, but all I knowledge is more ease on the one hand and fear darkness on the other only hope. But if hope should not fail, then I say to you, Gimli son of Glóin, that your hands shall flow with gold, and are over you gold shall have no dominion."

Alabang Country Club seniors fight back

HERE THE GODS MORE, SECTION 15, RULE V OF THE rules and regulations implementing Republic Act No. 9257 (Expanded Senior Citizens Act) specifically provides for an "Express Lane" for senior citizens. "Express Lanes for senior citizens shall be provided in all private, commercial and government establishments, in the absence thereof, priority shall be given to them."

But many commercial and government establishments have been complying with this provision of law aimed at providing a bit more comfort and convenience for our elderly citizens.



REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

There is one particular business group that has gone out of its way to provide this necessary service, during the past few weeks. I have noticed that Mercury Drug now provides a special lane for senior citizens. The lane is outlined with numbered cards so that clients just get a number and are served orderly without having to compete with the rest of the customers. Kudos to Mercury Drug for introducing such as this, and I hope the practice is being implemented on a nationwide basis in all of their outlets. This action serves as an example for the rest of the business community.

Now comes the bad news.

More than a year ago, I was invited to speak before a group of senior citizen members of the Alabang Country Club Inc. (ACCI). They were interested in learning more about senior citizen benefits provided by law. I tried to enlighten them as much as possible, particularly by sharing some of my experiences on the subject.

Recently, I was informed that three of the club members, Messrs. Jaime Dela Rosa, Renato Silvio and Monsenio Delos Santos, had written a formal letter of complaint to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) regarding their non-enrollment of the 20 percent senior citizen discount from the club's management. A similar complaint by another member, Mrs. Letizia Amoin, with the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs in Muntinlupa City, apparently the position of ACCI on the issue is that the senior citizens law is not applicable to a private club like the ACCI where membership is not a right but a privilege.

In a letter to Dr. Encarnacion Villareal, president of ACCI, DSWD Undersecretary Alicia R. Bala who is also the alternate co-chairperson of the Oversight Committee on Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCAD) stated that, "Republic Act No. 9257 did not make any further distinction nor did it provide for specific exemption from the coverage of the law."

For better understanding of the issue, let me backtrack a bit with some history.

The NCSDB is a multi-agency body provided for by the implementing rules and regulations of the Senior Citizen Law and is chaired by the DSWD, with the vice-chairperson from the DILG and the commissioner of the OSCAD. DOH and five non-government organizations (NGO) representatives. The board is tasked mainly to coordinate government action on senior citizen issues and concerns.

As with all multi-agency bodies, it can be unwieldy and slow-moving. Just getting enough members together on a particular day presents a problem. But when it is able to meet and agree, resolutions are issued on cases presented to the body. Unfortunately, not all resolutions are paid much attention to by the institutions concerned. A case in point is Resolution No. 3-2008, enjoining all hospitals, clinics and other medical or health facilities to post the Medical Benefits and Health Privileges of senior citizens including Professional fees. How many of these facilities have complied with the requirement? Personally, I have not seen any of them in pix. There is very little monitoring and follow-up work on the resolution, making it ineffective and practically toothless.

There is another course of action available to individuals for violations of their senior citizen rights.

Rule IX of the implementing Rules and Regulations states that "it shall be the responsibility of the municipality / city through the Mayor to ... ensure that the provisions of the Act (Senior Citizen Law) are implemented as to its letter." Acting as municipal mayors, they can issue cease and desist order to establishments violating the Senior Citizen Law and since it is the mayor's office that issues all kinds of business permits, one can appreciate the enormous persuasive powers available to the local officials.

In the case of Orchard Golf & Country Club, through the efforts of its past president, retired Air Force general Charlie Tanega, its senior citizens now enjoy senior citizen privileges in its dining rooms. My own membership in another club—Southwoods Golf & Country Club—also honors the discount for its elderly members.

While I am not a lawyer, I believe the law is quite clear. It does not make any distinctions as to whether clubs are private or public, and neither should we. I also am aware that members of private clubs can well afford to pay the normal club dues. But the senior citizens law has nothing to do with capacity to pay. It is a matter of right and concern for the elderly in our society. Since I realize there are excellent lawyers among us who can expound quite convincingly on the merits of both sides of the issue, this legal action can be decisive and expensive for all concerned.

My unsolicited advice to members of private clubs is to keep in mind that, eventually, all of us become senior citizens who will in the future enjoy the same benefits being accorded senior citizens today. We can help ensure that senior citizen members to enjoy those benefits. In a well-run club, it probably won't make a dent in its finances. When the by-laws of the club were formulated, perhaps the senior citizen law was not yet in effect. We must be able to adapt to the changing environment and recognition of the rights of the elderly is now a fact of life just as much as climate change has brought about new energy measures to preserve the planet.

One last word. Rule V on the privileges for senior citizens, in particular Article 7 (d), reads: "Recreation Centers—This discount shall be for the utilization of services in the form of fees, charges, and rental facilities such as but not limited to sports facilities and equipment."

My interest as a senior citizen tell me that green fees in golf clubs and golf-carts are covered by the senior citizen law providing the 20 percent discount. All those in favor, shout "Fore!"

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Poll agency 'getting better'

LETTERS

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS IS getting better and better at what it does. First, it lets a convicted child rapist run for Congress and seek reelection from his prison cell. Then, it allows a photo op to unfold on dominate the credits of the 2009 presidential election. Now, it dismisses Atty. Lucilo's decision to run for party list based on moral grounds, even citing passages from both the Bible and Koran.

I can understand where the Comelec is coming from: a convicted child rapist is a morally sound individual and definitely deserves another chance.

The Comelec is forecasting a danger not just to young people but also to all the citizens of the Philippines.

Interesting.

Also, I can't wait to see what the Comelec has in store for the 2010 elections. Wika nga, "strangers may outsmart us, kabanata..." The story ain't nearly over for the next chapter. ...!

—MANUEL HARRIS,
manuel_harris@yahoo.com.ph

While everyone else is making sacrifices, oil firm execs live it up

MANY MULTINATIONAL OIL COMPANIES say they are losing, when their economic needs to dark profits are being diminished. In search of the 'source' of Mr. crunch's Bill Gates that he became $1 billion "poorer" in the wake of the global crisis—i.e., his net worth was down, say, from $76 billion to $60 billion "only."

It is downright outrageous that while the whole country is reeling from the declaring effects of "Ondoy" and "Pepeng," these gasoline thrift of nothing less than seven as usual. While everyone else is losing [illegible] to make sacrifices, they are increasing it six cents half of high water. Also look at the egregious ways by which chief executive officers are still living it up! Considering to earn millions of pesos in monthly pay, monthly salaries and perks, they don't give a hoot if the host country suffers in its rapidity.

In reaction to these companies' black, malicious to bring in more oil, thereby causing a shortage of supply. Sec. Joker Arroyo has correctly opined that it is within the "police power" of the State to take over these companies in times of national emergencies or to import oil on its own. Why this Arroyo regime is being soft on these companies and is not even inclined to check their oil stocks in Batangas is hard to understand.

In the face of their defiance of the executive order supposedly "freezing" the prices of oil products, Malacañang has blinked and is now groveling. Do all its bravado about being will on top of things, this regime can only bring these oil companies to moderate their greed? To a plea-bleasure!

—STEPHEN L. MONSALVES,
slmonsalves@yahoo.com.ph

Insulate school openings from storm season

SOMETIME BY 2002, WHEN BILL S. Boco was the education secretary I sent a letter to his department suggesting that the opening of classes for all elementary and secondary schools be moved from June to September. Unfortunately, I did not get a reply.

Since time immemorial, the early months of typhoons and floods have always been regular headaches not only to the gubernal public, but also to our schoolchildren and their families. It is common knowledge that the monsoon season starts in April and lasts till October, but to us students' heavy downpours occur from June to August. The two consecutive intercutive months, "Ondoy" and "Pepeng," were an unexpected guest.

The government has been spending huge amounts of taxpayers' money on flood control to no avail. Why? Simple because many of its the lost when to competition with the government is deranged. In fact, garbage is everywhere, clogging creeks, canals and rivers. A good portion of the waste remains embedded in the river basin and in other waterways.

The upgrading and paving of roads without drainage canals or without declining existing drainage systems along the roads have aggravated the situation into the great inconvenience of pedestrians, commuters, drivers, spectators of light rain and heavy rains of business establishments and residents.

Aside from "replishing" flooding, how then would our government's perverse such natural calamities from hindering the opening of classes during the rainy season? Very simple. Move the openings to our environment will continue.

The only way to effectively prevent the unnecessary suspension of classes because of floods and typhoons is to move the opening of the school year from June to September when the rainy season is over. This will not only benefit the students, their teachers and their parents, the victimized typhoons, floods and landslides can also use the vacant school buildings in the affected areas as "evacuation centers."

—RONALD V. CELESTINO,
Cen. Bican Avenue,
San Fernando, Pampanga

Columnist's false data

IT IS NOT TRUE THAT CALLIOT SERRANO was the person to filed against Rep. Rachel Arenas, 41-Pal, during the hearings conducted by the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET), it was proven by the members of the Board of Election Inspectors of the seven precincts in Magsaysay, Pangasinan that the election returns of Arenas were fake. True, the seat of Representative Arenas is crossed.

Two groups of officials were summoned by the HRET and they confirmed that, indeed, there were irregularities.

The wrong information used by Belinda Bautista, Comelec en bee line. IT system should be corrected immediately. This is very damaging on the credibility of Comelec officials and to the consumers. It was very irresponsible and presumptuous of Comelec to use that information in her column.

—FELICIANO T. BELMONTE JR.,
chief of staff,
Office of Rep. Ma. Rachel J. Arenas

Problems, solutions in recruiting techies

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE NEWS ITEM titled "Wanted: 50,000 techies to man polling centers," INQUIRER, 11/12/09.

In one of my trips to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, I observed some problems with what the Commission on Elections and Smartmatic intended to do the 2010 elections.

Smartmatic has instructed its people in the field to look for local agents who can host precinct-level tests with good technical knowhow to man and maintain the computers and other facilities to be used in the elections. Ultimately the success of the automated elections will depend on these persons and technicians.

But I have seen signs of incompetence on the part of a manpower service firm by Smartmatic to do surveys in the Luzon area of Illinois and Texas, to gauge the availability of resources needed to synchronize the automated operations. The technicians were not needed for many days because the agency sent them without a budget for their travel needs, meaning, they were there hanging! by the agency little less restaurants to meals with, it is highly possible that the surveys could end up incomplete and inaccurate.

Smartmatic should hire more manpower services knowledgeable enough to screen competent, local professionals for survey work, more importantly, those capable of identifying the travel expenses of the locality in the Ilong areas that may be accessible only by a small banca. I opposed to those responsible or unsatisfactorily adopt corrective measures before it's too late. I suggest the following:

1. Hire effective local agents to recruit technicians, especially those who are assigned in Iloilo, Bacolod and Tawi-Tawi.

2. Hire access and more logistics for the people in the field.

3. Have allowance for transportation, travel and lodging for technicians, especially those sent to remote areas. I saw some technicians getting stranded for a couple of days in Tawi-Tawi, because their local agents are inconsiderate to their needs.

I believe that there are some realities in this field which might be interested to assist Smartmatic in recruiting good and competent people for the automation project.

—JAIME S. ENRILE,
c/o jenrile@yahoo.com

Scraping the bottom

EDU V. BONDAD IS AN ILOKANO—LIKE me. His stature, he's not a very good television host, are attached by the "foreign student" with pride, more so when he speaks our language from time to time.

We are appalled, however, as the news that he has decided to be the running mate of Gibo Teodoro, Malacañang's candidate. This is not to underestimate Manoong, but we are sure that he doesn't have what it takes to occupy the office, a heartbeat away from the presidency.

To put it bluntly, the Iskan Kampi Chill party is scraping the bottom of a very shallow barrel. In an interview with Charlie Lanuza on ANC, it was apparent that his grasp of national issues leaves much to be desired.

Her name, Manoong is no dumb, but his decision to run for vice president is almost.

Nagpadala daw ito nang mensahe sa Sila.

—JEFF LEENO,
rnarnor@rocketmail.com

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Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Burgonia

3 crewmen seized in Zamboanga Norte

By Philip C. Tubeza

RIDING ON THREE PUMP BOATS, NINE unidentified armed men kidnapped on Saturday night three sailors aboard a barge that was seeking shelter from a storm in Siocon Bay off Zamboanga del Norte, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said yesterday.

PCG commandant Wilfredo Tamayo said he ordered his men to help in the search and rescue of Indonesian skipper Felipe Miranda, chief mate Cesar Layunan and chief engineer Rachio Magtayong.

The Coast Guard "is closely monitoring this report," Tamayo said.

"We've also issued a Notice to Mariners for commercial vessels requesting the vicinity of Siocon Bay to take precautionary measures, and to promptly report to authorities any suspicious movement of vessels," he said.

Lt. Cmdr. Armand Balilo, PCG spokesperson, said the kidnapping happened at around 9 p.m. on Nov. 21.

The barge was on its way to Iligan City and was being towed by a tugboat from Oriental Business City when it encountered rough seas, he said.

"They took shelter at the vicinity of Siocon Bay ... and it was there that the incident happened," Balilo said.

The heavily armed men boarded the barge and tugboat and took the three victims and their global positioning system, radio equipment, cell phones and provisions before escaping.

A certain Amable Bacalla, supervisor of Cebu Barge and Tug Corp., which owns the two vessels, reported the kidnapping at around 10:45 p.m., the PCG said.

The PCG District Western Mindanao based in Zamboanga has alerted its units and asked naval forces in eastern Mindanao and the Western Mindanao Command for help, Balilo said.

Three Navy vessels were immediately sent to the area, he said.

"We have not yet received any further report ... because the kidnappers have yet to contact the owners of the barge," Balilo said.

"According to one of the hostage takers, they will bring the hostages to Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, and will contact the owner of the said boat," said Lt. Gen. Jose Dulnuan, Westmincom chief, quoting one of the remaining crew members. With an report from Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

SC dismisses 5 Iloilo sheriffs for seizure of pigs

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE SUPREME COURT has affirmed its decision to dismiss from service five court sheriffs in this city for illegally confiscating pigs and hoarding on one of them in 2007.

It ran on basic ruling promulgated on Oct. 13 and released on Nov. 6, the high court dismissed with finality the motions for reconsideration filed in September by the sheriffs.

"The court resolved to deny with finality the ... motions, ... there being no substantial matter raised to warrant the reversal of the questioned decision," it said.

The latest ruling upheld an Aug. 13 order dismissing Rolando Somoso, Edgar Cosiero and Rodolfo Haro, sheriffs of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC); and Gani Layosa and Camilo Dermaguera Jr., sheriffs of the Iloilo Regional Trial Court (RTC).

The court also ordered the forfeiture of all benefits and privileges of the sheriffs, except accrued leave credits.

It found them guilty of grave misconduct after they illegally confiscated 675 heads of swine from Nueva Swine Valley Inc. and ordered running and voting use of the pigs when they served a writ of execution relative to a civil case they were party to.

The executive judge of the Iloilo RTC and the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) had earlier found the sheriffs to have violated procedures under the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure governing the implementation of execution of judgments for money when they levied the property of Nueva Swine Valley, which was not the subject of the writ of execution.

Mary Ann Ng, president and chief executive officer of the swine firm, was the subject of a criminal and civil complaint of Lito Gamboa, representing Hyginus Commodities Trading. Gamboa accused Ng of violating Batas Pambansa Blang 22 (Bouncing Checks Law) for not paying her liabilities to complainants.

Investigations showed that on May 31, 2007, the sheriffs served the order of execution issued by the Municipal Trial Court Court Branch 2 in Barotac City.

The order required Ng to pay her debts and the sheriffs to levy her properties if she failed to do so.

The high court had also pointed out that the properties of Nueva Swine was not the subject of the levy order because Ng has a separate and distinct personality from that of the corporation even if she was the corporation's president and chief executive officer.

Enough pork in Marinduque, says exec

BOAC, MARINDUQUE—THERE WOULD be enough supply of pork in Marinduque on Christmas, according to the provincial veterinarian.

Dr. Jesse Victoria gave the assurance to quell fears of islanders that hogs from the province were being shipped out in droves to Metro Manila where demand was high.

Live hogs from Mindoro have also recently sought by meat traders and dealers because the island has been declared free from foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

Pork supplies in Metro Manila have dwindled significantly because of successive typhoons that hit the traditional pork suppliers of Metro Manila in Luzon in September and October.

"What are commonly shipped out are the native pigs, which are made into lechon, and not the white varieties," Victoria said.

Local hog raisers "have enough stocks to supply the market," he said.

From January to August, the provincial veterinary office recorded that 18,355 live hogs, including those for fattening and piglets, were moved out of the province.

Victoria warned, however, that local consumers should expect prices of pork and meat products to significantly increase in Christmas season.

He expected the price to hit P200-P220 per kilo. The present price is pegged at P180-P190. Oswald Orane E. Quevedo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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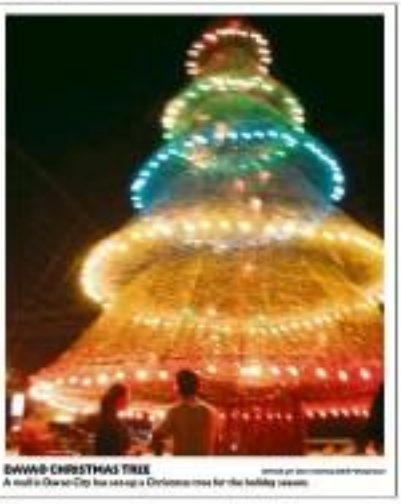

DAVAO CHRISTMAS TREE
A mall in Davao City has set up a Christmas tree for the holiday season.

Sariaya townsfolk want halt to illegal quarrying

SARIAYA, QUEZON—LUCENA BISHOP Emilio Marquez has called on Quezon officials to stop the widespread illegal quarry operations at the outskirts of Sariaya town.

Tragedies are waiting to happen if government officials ignore the plea of villagers living along the slopes of Mt. Banahaw in this town, the bishop said in a homily on Sept. 14, during the Mass in celebration of the feast of Sariaya's town, the Santo Cristo de Burgos.

Last month, after a series of typhoons in Luzon, David Suarez, assistant secretary in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), urged the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board (PMRB) and town officials to stop quarrying.

The urgent calls from villagers as echoed by Marquez and Suarez, however, fell on deaf ears.

Moratorium

Francisco Sevilla Jr., PMRB vice chair, identified nine quarry operators in Barangay Antipolo, holder of a mining permit, whose site in Barangay Ibo. Limbo is where two children drowned when Typhoon "Ondoy" struck.

On Nov. 3, Quezon Gov. Naland Nantes issued a cease-and-desist order against Antipolo, while on Nov. 13, Environment Secretary Lito Atienza ordered a stop to all quarry operations in Sariaya.

Atienza directed the creation of a team composed of representatives from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Environmental Management Bureau and DENR's provincial office in Quezon to make an inventory of quarry operations in Sariaya and to prepare an impact assessment report detailing the imminent danger that they pose on public life and properties.

Atienza told the team to see if the quarry operators complied with environmental laws.

Construction boom

Since the construction boom in the 1990s, Sariaya has been a source of high-quality aggregates for Metro Manila and Southern Tagalog.

There are 51 mining permits and 22 expired ones in Sariaya in Sevilla's record.

Danilo Martinez, Sariaya environment officer, however, said over the phone only 10 quarry operators have renewed their licenses for this year.

Legal and illegal quarrying problems in the villages of Tampulan II, Sta. Cruz, Bendaja, Canda, Limbon and Guitnibat.

Villagers said there was massive extraction of rubble, stones and boulders in these villages situated on both sides of the Sangalang and Lagnas rivers.

The Sariaya quarry operations, like any mining activities in other parts of the province, is under the control and supervision of PMRB based in Lucena City, with the local government performing only ministerial functions as provided for under the Local Government Code.

The situation has long been assailed by Sariaya government officials, complaining that it stake is the security of the residents.

Sevilla said his office has no problem in the decision of its power to the local government.

"We both have good intentions and that is to protect lives and the environment. We just need to talk and thresh out the problem," he said.

The local government has been limiting quarry operations in the riverbed as part of its flood control program.

Illegal quarry operators, however, circumvent of law prohibiting them, particularly ceramic plantations, to sell the land to them, which end up as quarry sites.

In Sampaloc E, an illegal quarry site turned a former coconut plantation into a vast pool of boulders of varying sizes left by unidentified operators.

"The man-made rivers from illegal quarry operations pose a serious danger in case of flash floods from Banahaw," said environmentalist lawyer Sheila de Leon of Tanggol Kalikasan Southern Tagalog.

September 26 barangay captain Arsenio Elao denied that illegal quarries operate in his place.

"What we have here are legal quarry operations, all allowed by the PMRB," he said.

Dialogue

Quezon Rep. Proceso Alcala said he had been conducting a dialogue with DENR officials in Manila to assess the quarry operations in his district.

"What we ought to do is balance the economic welfare of the people, the construction of Sariaya quarry to the government's development programs and our obligation to preserve the environment," he said.

Sariaya folk, local officials and environmentalists welcomed Atienza's order to temporarily stop the quarry operations.

"Now is the time for the national government to give power to the local government to manage the quarry operations," said Mayo Moore, chair of Ajup Bagwis (Save Women Multipurpose Cooperative, who has been leading the struggle to stop the rampant illegal quarry operations in her town.

The villagers said quarry operations pose health threats such as respiratory illnesses caused by dust particles from rock crushers and sand piles.

Sariaya Councilor Oliver Mikaniki, chair of the town council's committee on environment and natural resources, said the DENR must in suspend quarry activities had long been pushed by the local government. —Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Team Krista rises to defend actress

By Inquirer AI

Sevilla and sister Susanne Sarelle... have defended the troubled 25-year-old actress from persistent rumors of an illicit affair with boxing icon Manny Pacquiao.

Upon the Inquirer's request, Sevilla issued a statement regarding the raging controversy.

"We deeply [sic] that some people are condemning my dear Krista," said Sevilla, whose son Mat Ranillo III is the father of the controversial actress. "I am personally requesting people to thank them before judging [her]."

She continued: "Unfortunately I am not in a position to speak for Krista. She's my granddaughter and I love her dearly, but she's of age and she's a mature lady. I'd like to give her the chance to speak for herself. It's her right."

Sevilla appealed to the public for patience. "You will hear from her soon. You will hear from her father Mat soon, too."

Krista's manager Arnold Vegafria said the controversial actress would hold a press conference upon her return from Los Angeles, where she is staying with her family.

Instead of dwelling on intrigues, Sevilla asked the public to understand their plight. "We are focusing on my [teenaged granddaughter Krista's] major surgery in the US."

The surgery of Krista, Krista's sister was allegedly paid for by Pacquiao.

In a phone interview recently, Sevilla said "the bills for Krista's operation are not that expensive because she's an American citizen. I don't know why some people are making a big fuss about this surgery... which is long overdue."

Sevilla said she and her daughter Susanne would be leaving for the United States in time for Krista's surgery next month. "Krista will be in the US with her sister."

Sarette explained that Krista's surgery was to "[the bone-grafting phase]" for the treatment of a cleft lip and palate.

"She's had a series of surgeries. She's not an ordinary cleft lip and palate case," she said. "Krista's condition is delicate because she was clinically dead before and 15 minutes after she was [less than a year old]."

It was a cheering point for the family, Sarette recalled.

"Her platelets dropped momentarily," she said. "I know because I was there praying with Mat at the hospital. She's a miracle baby, but after that she started having seizures."

Sevilla said: "We almost lost her before. We cannot afford to lose her again."

Instead of rumors and controversies, "I'm appealing for your prayers," she added.

Amid her sister Krista holding up? Her manager, Vegafria told the Inquirer that his ward was "suffering anxiety attacks" as a result of the controversy.

Sarette believes the scandal will not have an adverse effect on her sister's career. "Krista is dynamic, smart, loving and God-fearing. I'm proud of her. I love her unconditionally. Her image is not based on rumors. It's based on good looks and great acting."

She also advised Krista "to stay resilient in spite of the [negative] words ... focus on us, praising your craft and chosen projects wisely."

There have been rumors that the scandal was concocted to promote Pacquiao's and Krista's coming movie, "Pagsisisi," an entry in next month's Metro Manila Film Festival.

Said Vegafria: "I'm sure ... that's a question for the publicist of this movie. They're the ones behind all this."

TOPNOTCHERS

Lyceum of the Philippines University
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Excellent Performance by Outstanding Lyceans
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- Congratulations to the top who made it to the TOP TEN!
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- Cheers to LPU-Manila and LPU-Batangas for ranking Number 1 and Number 2, respectively, for the category of schools with 41-80 examinees.

You did yourselves and your alma mater proud. More power to you!

SUCCESSFUL EXAMINEES:

MANILA
Almajeda, Kristian R.
Alma, Annabelle M.
Balolot, Jullian E.
Cabo, Paolo M.
Canlapaud, Jhoddy B.
De Guzman, Maylene V.
Dela Cuesta, Christian Joan C.
De Leon, Maricon M.
Fermin, Cristina C.
Enriquez, Maria Rona M.
Escamillosa, Rhoan P.
Gonzales, Rica L.
Gonzales, Marjorie Andrea A.
Gregasen, Florence May H.
Jusayana, Janet Mae T.
Kuizon, Kyle Daryl B.
Laguna, Jocelyn B.
Magbanua, Jose Ephraim C.
Maya, Regie Boni M.
Obenita, Ma. Grace A.
Pacumalanes, Karen S.
Perez, Herman Andrew F.
Pinedagan, Mary Anne B.
Pinto, Marilyn Rose T.
Pingo, Modes John C.
Nelson, Jonathan I.
Nunez, Joseph B.
Reyes, Ma. Joanna M.
Sajo, Karen E.
Sy-Lazaro, Mirriam U.
Tolella, J. Anne B.
Tupaz, Nicolai Anne C.
Valerio, Valerie Anne S.

BATANGAS
Apas, Alda B.
Bonaventura, Grace B.
Bulad, Mary Anne C.
Blanca, Cristella A.
Bonnay, Raymond A.
Dantugan, Maylene R.
Bautista, Wynneth F.
Bonoc, Miriam C.
Cayti, Jon E.
Castillo, Cielo S.
Castillo, Marilyn A.
Colegio, Renee M.
Dimaraj, Karen O.
Evangelista, Christian R.
Gamora, Arlene P.
Hernandez, Lea B.
Hernandez, Lyndee T.
Mojillo, Nonie E.
Mutia, Francisco H.
Mendiona, Jelly P.
Mercado, Sheila Mae M.
Perez, Cristy H.
Rabanal, Lyanna B.
Ramirez, Reneir F.
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

September 22, 2009

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 229
Series of 2009

SUBJECT : Guidelines on the Registration of Freshwater Ornamental Fish Export Facilities

Pursuant to Sections 67 and 107 of R.A. 8550, and in line with BFAR's program for freshwater ornamental fish and to satisfy the hygienic and sanitary requirements for international market, the following guidelines on the registration of ornamental fish export facilities are hereby promulgated for compliance of all concern:

Section 1. Registration. – Application for exportation of freshwater ornamental fish shall only be processed and evaluated when the following registration process has been complied with:

A. Registration of Exporters. – All exporters must be registered with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource (BFAR) before they can qualify to export freshwater ornamental fish. Qualified exporters shall be registered after submission and evaluation of the following requisites:

1. Documentary Requirements. – the following documents shall be submitted:
   a. Letter of Intent
   b. Business/Mayor's Permit
   c. Permit/Lease
   d. SEC/DTI/CDA Registration
   e. Manpower Profile
   f. Standard Operation Operation Procedure

2. Facility Requirements. – the facility shall comply with the following minimum requirements:

   Quarantine Facility
   a. The quarantine premises must be located in a flood free area, isolated and secured room than other areas are not easily contaminated by water and equipment used in or around this system;
   b. It must have adequate supply, containing and treatment area of sufficient space to handle the incoming stocks;
   c. It must be fully enclosed and the floors must be tiled concreted to be able to contain spilled water and must facilitate complete drainage to a catchment or effluent tank;
   d. There must be adequate facilities for disinfection of all equipment used, as well as cleaning of footwear;
   e. There must be hand washing facilities and footbath for staff; and
   f. Basic laboratory equipment and supplies such as microscopes, and dissecting tools should be available in the area for the conduct of basic parasitological test.

   Conditioning Facility
   a. The conditioning facility must be enclosed, physically isolated and secured to prevent contamination;
   b. The floors must be interlocked to be able to contain spilled water and must facilitate complete drainage to a catchment or effluent tank;
   c. There must be adequate facilities for disinfection of all equipment as well as cleaning of footwear; and
   d. There must be hand washing facilities and footbath for staff.

   Packing Area
   a. Sufficient space to facilitate free movement of workers;
   b. There must be enough space to accommodate the storage of packaging materials, oxygen tank, packing water, and other associated activities; and
   c. The area must be well ventilated.

   Other Facilities
   a. Comfort rooms must be strategically located and must have hand washing facilities;
   b. There must be an area for the proper storage of feeds, other chemicals and cleaning implements; and
   c. Back-up power and water supplies must be available.

3. Operational Requirements
   a. All areas must be properly lighted;
   b. The equipment and paraphernalia (such as tank, containers, pipes, hoses, etc.) must always remain within the respective facility and must not be removed for any other purposes unless for disinfection and maintenance;
   c. Before and after importation, all materials and paraphernalia/equipment must be properly cleaned and sanitized;
   d. All facilities must have a clear signage and all associated equipment must be properly labelled;
   e. Veterinary drugs and chemicals must be kept in a separate storage and properly labelled;
   f. Dead fish and other wastes must be properly disposed;
   g. The facility must maintain a complete record of pertinent documents, including but not limited to water quality monitoring, treatment status of stocks, treatments given and outbreaks/diseases encountered;
   h. All working personnel must be technically equipped, and must observe hygiene and sanitation;
   i. Continuous training must be conducted to upgrade technical capability of workers;
   j. Only authorized personnel must be allowed inside the respective facilities; and
   k. The facility must allow BFAR personnel to monitor and take samples for analysis regularly.

Section 2. Issuance of Certificate of Registration. – BFAR shall issue a Registration Number upon verification that the facility has satisfactorily complied with all the minimum requirements stipulated in this Order. The certificate shall be valid for one (1) year from date of issuance.

Section 3. Penalties. – BFAR shall conduct regular inspection and monitoring to determine the exporters' compliance with this Order, and in case of violation, the monitoring team shall issue a warning in writing and to take no corrective action is undertaken within a reasonable period, the monitoring team shall recommend to the Director the suspension and revocation of registration.

Section 4. – Repeal. – All orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 5. Effectivity. – This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and fifteen (15) days after its registration in the Office of the National Registry.

Issued this 28th day of October 2009 in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

Recommending Approval:

SALVADOR B. SALACOP
Assistant Secretary
BFAR/NC Chairman

MALCOLM V. SARMIENTO, JR.
BFAR Director

DR. N. ADORA
BFAR Assistant Director for Technical Services

Approved:

ATTY. ARTHUR C. YAP
Secretary

MANIFESTO

The **Partido ng Manggagawa at Magsasaka (PMM)** was organized to address the need for a political party to represent the interests of the workers and peasants in the Philippines. It is a radical departure from the country's traditional party politics which, for over 100 years, have been dominated by political groups organized and led by the land-owning class or the *hacenderos*, the traders and later, by big businessmen.

The PMM is the only political party adopting a platform that emphasizes the importance of the workers and the peasants in nation-building and the need to articulate and fight for the interests of these sectors as an integral part of the economic, social and political development of the country.

The PMM rejects patronage politics. Our leaders should not be beholden to big businessmen and landlords. Elections in the country have been turned into a vaudeville where candidates do not present to the people their program of government, rather they have in tow actors and actresses to indorse them and to entertain the crowd. Enough of this political circus.

The proscription of political dynasticism, although enshrined in our Constitution, is merely given lip service by our politicians. Dynasticism is prevalent in local and national politics. Wives and children of mayors become mayors; the wife succeeds the husband or vise-versa, in Congress. The Senate is now composed of siblings, actors and actresses; the Presidency is turning out to be not an exception. Dynasticism is reminiscent of the "divine rights of kings" that those whose genes were inherited from a king or queen should, by God's will, become kings or queens.

The PMM calls on all Filipinos to take politics seriously and not be swayed by mere entertainment or better progeny.

Having defined its membership as comprising principally of the workers and peasants, the PMM is the first major attempt by these sectors to broaden their struggle for a more equitable distribution of wealth through active participation in local and national politics. The organized workers in the last seven decades have relied mostly in unionism and collective bargaining to raise their wages and improve their work conditions. Not enjoying the same rights as the workers, the peasants have relied mainly on mass rallies and demonstrations to influence policy-making. Indeed, from 1930 to the 70's there were sporadic peasants' revolts led by the communist parties whose organized force was mainly in the countryside.

We proclaim our party's vision of empowered workers and peasants shaping their own lives. As the political party of workers and peasants, we claim their historic role in nation-building.

Wherefore, PMM presents this Program of Government to elevate the level of political debate and for the citizenry to make intelligent choice.

PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT

• NATIONALISM AND PATRIOTISM

The Party honors and adheres to the nationalist and patriotic aspirations of our national heroes: Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Apolinario Mabini, Emilio Aguinaldo and the numerous men and women who fought and died in defending the independence and sovereignty of the Philippines against colonizers and invaders. The Party is aware that many of the ills that plague our nation stem from lack of patriotism.

• ONE NATION OF FILIPINOS

The Party believes that Christians, Muslims and the indigenous peoples belong to the same race, sharing the same culture and aspiring for one identity as Filipinos. And as Filipinos, they are common stakeholders in the economic and social development of the country.

• EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

The Party commits itself to a more equitable distribution of wealth, increased rights of workers and peasants, promotion of welfare state, adequate government funding for health care and education, rationalized ownership of key and vital industries, strong regulations to curb monopolies, greater participation of unions, peasants organizations, non-government organizations (NGOs) and peoples organizations (POs) in all levels of government.

• REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

The PMM adheres to the tenets of representative democracy and affirms that those who comprise the majority shall equally be represented in Congress and in all policy-making bodies of the government. All Filipinos, regardless of social and economic status, religion and ethnic background are equal stakeholders in the quest for national development and therefore must have meaningful participation in the decision-making. They must be guaranteed equal access to information through formal education and the media.

• GOOD GOVERNANCE

The PMM rejects and denounces corruption in government in all levels and activities. The President, Senators, Congressmen, Governors, Mayors and all government employees must learn to serve as models of honesty and integrity. All those engaged in corrupt practices should be held accountable for their offense.

• PEACE AND UNITY

The PMM shall strive for peace and unity. It abhors violence as a means to achieve personal or collective political, religious, or economic objectives. It shall resolve through peaceful means the rebellion in Muslim Mindanao and the communist insurgency in some parts of the country. However, it shall not waver in using legitimate force to combat enemies of the state whose agenda is the overthrow of the government or the dismemberment of the country.

• LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

The PMM shall work for the full and equitably remunerative employment for the country's labor force. It shall adopt policies and repeal laws that impede the growth of unionism and the protection of workers' rights. PMM shall fight to assure the workers a living wage.

• HOUSING AND LAND OWNERSHIP

The PMM shall extensively use the resources of government in solving the severe housing problem in the country. Idle and unproductive lands may be expropriated and distributed at reasonable costs to low income families who do not own the land where their houses stand. Agrarian and urban land reform shall be sustained to its full conclusion. Land of the public domain shall be developed and distributed on usufruct basis to landless workers and peasants.

• EDUCATION

Education is a basic right of an individual. Everyone of school age must be given the opportunity to attend primary and secondary education at the least and university education at the most. In order to achieve this goal, PMM shall enhance government funding to public schools as well as state colleges and universities. It shall regulate private educational institutions to assure that education is not just a business undertaking.

PMM shall use government resources to provide skills-training for students who cannot pursue college education.

The curricula of all primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions whether public or private, shall emphasize science and technology. PMM shall ensure adequate financial support for those who want to pursue science and technology courses in colleges and universities.

• OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

Overseas employment of Filipino skilled workers has short-term advantages but fraught with long-term disadvantages. All the industrialized and industrializing economies now rely on overseas recruitment of labor to sustain their economic growth. This compensates for these economies' shortage of labor. The Philippines is deploying labor overseas by the millions, thus depriving the country of skilled manpower. PMM shall work to reverse this trend by actively encouraging, through economic and fiscal policies, foreign companies to invest in the country and take advantage of our skilled labor here at home.

• PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

The PMM believes that for the country and the world to sustain the present momentum of development and growth and to achieve better quality of life for all, there must be an uncompromising individual and collective efforts at protecting the environment. Denudation of forests, irresponsible handling of wastes, and mining activities which destroy and degrade the environment must be stopped. The goal of reducing environmental pollution must be achieved at the soonest possible time. Global warming must be urgently addressed for the present and future generations to enjoy a habitable planet. To repair the damage already done, the government shall lead and support the reduction of air-borne pollutants, reforestation of denuded mountains, planting of bakawan and other trees in mangrove areas and clean-up of rivers, lakes, estuaries and other bodies of water.

• GENDER EQUALITY

The PMM shall pursue aggressive policies to assure women of gender equality in all aspects of political, economic and social life. It shall promote the reproductive health of women.

• PEACE AND ORDER

Presently, our society is besieged by all forms of criminality, drug abuse, crimes against persons and property, as well as syndicated crimes. The Party shall unrelentingly pursue the prosecution and punishment of criminals to assure our people of drug and crime-free communities.

The Party will initiate and support legislations that strengthen the peace-keeping of the country and to make the judiciary at all levels, act expeditiously in rendering justice. Corruption in the prosecution arm of government and the judiciary shall be strictly proscribed.

• FOOD FOR EVERY FILIPINO

Agriculture should be the foremost concern of government. Our farmers' lives have not significantly improved in more than half a century. Farmer's income has continuously declined because of importation of food products from countries that subsidize their agricultural sector. With high-priced agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and insecticides, our farmers are no longer competitive with their counterparts in China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Indonesia and many other countries. Import of agricultural inputs and produce reduces the Filipino farmers' income and benefits only the traders who make hefty profits.

PMM shall introduce reforms in agriculture that are beneficial to the farmers and to attain self-sufficiency for the entire country. Among these are: improving and extending the reach of irrigation guaranteeing as well that irrigation fees should be at very minimal costs to the farmers; post-harvest facilities shall be modernized to prevent extensive losses; encouraging more liberal credit from government financial institutions; setting-up of fertilizer insecticide plants; cost of transporting produce from the farms to the consumers should be reduced by providing appropriate and readily available transport facilities; and the construction of farm-to-market roads, silo facilities, warehouses shall be considered by the government as investment for the future.

• PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

We affirm our unwavering and unconditional support for the protection and promotion of human rights as enshrined in our Constitution and the various international treaties and conventions.

• STRONG PARTICIPATION IN U.N. AND ASEAN

The PMM believes in the solidarity and interdependence of all nations of the world even as each country exercises the right to preserve and defend its own integrity and sovereignty. It therefore commits to strengthening the United Nations in all its activities particularly the promotion of world peace, the protection of the environment and its social and humanitarian missions.

The PMM believes that the ASEAN is a vital regional organization. The Philippines must increase its participation in all its programs and must strive to make this regional organization a vehicle for peace as well as economic, social and cultural integration of its members.

As the Philippines strengthens its solidarity with the ASEAN, it must develop closer economic, political and cultural relations with its traditional partners, the US, Europe and Japan and, with even more vigor, with China, Korea and India. The Philippines must also widen its horizon by enhancing its relation with South American and African countries.

In the next six years, we shall liberate our people from the bondage of poverty!

With workers and peasants
Nothing is impossible!

Together we shall not fail!

Onward to Peace, National Unity, Economic, Social and Cultural Progress!

RUBEN D. TORRES
Secretary General

HERMOGENES E. EBDANE, JR.
Chairman

OO, KASAMA AKO.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Cellphone: _____
Email: _____

Mail this form to **PMM National Headquarters.**
Victoria Bldg. 3, 1678 Quezon Ave. Q.C. or Fax to (02) 926-2962

visit PMM website: www.kalsada.com.ph

RP pushcart educator CNN hero of the year

HOLLANTEERS of the Dynamic Teen Co. push their carts that serve as mobile classrooms every weekend in Cavite. ALEXANDER

Frances Go Ad

(The Inquirer published PeñaFlorida's inspiring story and heroism in its issue of March 23, 2009.)

Be happy to serve

PeñaFlorida, who will receive $100,000 to continue his work, was selected after seven weeks of online voting at CNN.com. More than 2.75 million votes were cast.

"Our planet is filled with heroes, young and old, rich and poor, men, women of different colors, shapes and sizes. We are one great tapestry," PeñaFlorida, now a 28-year-old college graduate, said upon accepting the honor.

"Each person has a hidden hero within, you just have to look inside you and search it in your heart, and be the hero to the next one in need," he said.

"So to each and every person inside in this theater and for those who are watching at home, the hero in you is waiting to be unleashed. Serve, serve well, serve others above yourself and be happy to serve. As I always tell my revolutionaries ... you are the change that you dream as I see the change that I dream and collectively we are the change that this world needs to be."

Documentary tribute

The top 10 CNN Heroes, chosen by a blue ribbon panel from an initial pool of more than 9,000 viewer nominations, were each honored with a documentary tribute and introduced by a celebrity presenter. Each of the top 10 Heroes received $25,000.

At the ceremony honoring people who make a difference in the lives of others, Halle Berry, Penelope Cruz, Neil Patrick Harris and other stars who are used to getting applause were giving it gladly.

"I've cried twice and we're an hour down," Harris said backstage after introducing one of the 10 "CNN Heroes."

"There are so many awards shows every year for the Hollywood community that participating is something so effective as this makes those others feel inconsequential" and provides perspective, said Harris, star of CBS' "How I Met Your Mother" and reverse Emmy Awards host.

Emotional moment

Brosnan, honoring a woman who started an eyebrow cancer project, created one of the evening's most emotional moments as he recalled his late wife's battle against the disease.

She was a "magnificent mother, a wonderful actor," he said of Cassandra Harris, who died of ovarian cancer in 1991.

"There are too many of us who have lost someone to this brutal disease called cancer, and we are all rich and tired of cancer winning," Brosnan said in introducing breast cancer survivor Andrea Ivory, who runs a mobile mammography project in Miami that provides free screenings.

The pair posed backstage for photos, Ivory glamorous in a gown with an oversized pink bow—symbolic of the ribbon that stands for breast cancer battle.

"It's exciting," Brosnan said, smiling broadly as cameras focused on her.

"You make me nervous," Ivory replied, but Brosnan would have none of it. "You're the star," he said.

Leona Lewis, Carrie Underwood and Maxwell performed, and other presenters included Nicole Kidman and George Lopez.

Shine light on everyday people

The awards show, which is unusual for a TV news network, was created in 2007 after CNN producers and correspondents talked about meeting many unsung heroes, said Jim Walton, president of CNN Worldwide.

"We do something every day's ordinary—shine a light on everyday people that do extraordinary work," Walton said backstage.

Cooper, who hosted the tribute, said: "With the recognition they receive on our stage they'll be able to help thousands and thousands of people. Through their efforts, lives will be changed and lives will be saved." AP and CNN

PENAFLORIDA and his mobile classroom

Group thankful for blessing

Frances Go Ad

grins. He emerged as CNN's Hero of the Year after seven weeks of online voting and won $100,000 for DTC, his 12-year-old group.

The DTC earned worldwide recognition for recruiting teenagers as volunteer teachers to tutor children in Cavite City. To reach the poor children, the group goes around the city pushing carts loaded with books, blackboards and other school supplies.

Emanuel Bagtas, DTC chief executive officer, said the group's weekend international fame had brought it many positive changes.

Before, DTC members had to sell cookies and newspapers to raise money and sustain operations. But after DTC was featured in the media, the group received receiving private donations, enabling it to increase the number of its pushcart classrooms from two to four.

Replication

The monetary recognition, however, came in the form of replication. Private groups in Quezon City, Marikina, Manila and Zamboanga approached DTC, asking permission to implement the project in their own areas, Bagtas said.

One group put up a pushcart classroom in Baguio.

The DTC willingly gave the groups its modules, Bagtas said.

Inspiring example

Christi Mae said her brother, the middle child among three siblings, provided her with "an inspiring example."

"I was encouraged to join the DTC because I saw the good things that my brother was doing," she said.

In an earlier interview with the Inquirer, PeñaFlorida said his parents initially were not excited about his project, telling him he was just wasting his time.

But seeing the limit of his passion, his parents became very supportive and Christi Mae even became a member of the group when she was 15.

When she found yesterday that her brother had won, Christi Mae immediately sent a text message to their older brother Eduardo, 20, who relayed the good news not only to their parents but also to their neighbors.

Born to a father who worked as a tricycle driver and to a mother who supported the family as a laundry woman, PeñaFlorida nearly had to drop out of grade school.

But he got financial support from Gen Aldaba, a volunteer group based in Cavite City, and from World Vision, a group that matches sponsors with needy children.

PeñaFlorida said he put up DTC as an expression of gratitude to the people who had helped him when he was young.

DTC first used a bike with a sidecar for its travel classes, but when it ran into a rut, the rims would run flat and the chains fall off, so the group decided to use a pushcart instead.

Movement seeking change

PeñaFlorida is also an endorser of the Mac ro, a movement in the Philippines seeking change that should start with the individual.

He was among CNN's Heroes of the Week in March. CNN got reactions around the world to be featured in a hero—an ordinary individual with an extraordinary impact—each week.

In October, CNN chose its 10 heroes from over 9,000 nominations. The 10 heroes, who included PeñaFlorida, were selected by a video panel that included former US Secretary of State Colin Powell, actress Whoopi Goldberg, media tycoon Ted Turner, singer Sheikha, and Sir Elton John, the CNN had reported.

The CNN hero opened online voting for seven weeks to choose its CNN Hero of the Year.

Bagtas said DTC campaigned for PeñaFlorida in Cavite City.

The group got "more pledges" not only from its over 2,000 members but also from members in Cavite City.

"We gave out flyers and we visited computer shops. We asked computer shop owners to make the CNN voting sites their homepage," she said.

Top Sarangani officials snub Pacquiao's arrival

Fernando Al
the environment.

Only his fans and members of the media were around when the champion spoke at the Roxas town plaza.

Miranda Dadlu, one of Pacquiao advisers, said the boxer's ring achievements were beyond politics and that by ignoring him, the Sarangani officials showed their lack of political finesse and maturity.

Pacquiao, who comes from General Santos City, has manifested his endorsement to Sarangani Gov. Miguel Dominguez and that traditionally the province had never given a grand welcome to Pacquiao at the airport was in General Santos City.

Dominguez also said there might have been a lack of coordination between the local government and Pacquiao's people regarding his homecoming.

In Manila, administration Lakas-Kampi-CMD nominee Senator Jinggoy Estrada said Senator Jr. is not giving Pacquiao cap to another party sortie.

A source in the party said Ibrahim had instructed Dominguez, the party's vice president, to sit down with Pacquiao and come up with a compromise that would allow the boxer to run for the governor's congressional seat under the party's banner.

The source, a businessman who asked not to be identified because he did not want to be associated openly with politics, said Ibrahim remained confident that Pacquiao would stay with the Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition despite moves by his presidential rival, Sen. Manny Villar, to get the boxer into the Nacionalista Party (NP).

Villar told reporters the other day that he and Pacquiao had talked over dinner and that Pacquiao "is not cut out to be a politician."

Pacquiao has denied having decided under which party he will run, saying only that he will announce his decision "later."

Sarangani Rep. Erwin Chiongbian, a Lakas-Kampi-CMD member, is on his third and final term and reportedly intends to have one of his relatives run in his place next year. The Chiongbians have ruled the province since 1992.

Pacquiao failed in his first attempt to run for Congress out of South Cotabato as a Liberal Party member in 2004.

Reginald Velasco, Lakas-Kampi-CMD deputy secretary general, said Pacquiao was considered a member in good standing of the party although he had yet to formally take his oath.

Pacquiao joined the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) in September 2000 before it merged with Lakas in May.

Former President Joseph Estrada is also keeping a close open for Pacquiao in his Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) sticker, the boxer was learned.

Recht Ramos, Estrada's media relations officer, said Estrada's sons Senator Jinggoy Estrada and Jr. are not giving Pacquiao cap to another party sortie.

Asked if things had changed since then, Ramos said the PMP was still open to Pacquiao.

Asked about the Pacquiao issue yesterday at the University of Makati, Estrada said he was not publicizing anyone's candidacy.

"They are the ones who are pressing our candidacies," Estrada told Inquirer.

"Sponsor pag pinirmahan nila ang isang medallion 200 noon, it's they are pinning a medallion), there is really a considerable amount that you offer. We don't have any amount to offer. What we really only offer is service."

Later, Estrada said "Pinning candidacies is common these days, like pinning films. It's a pity Edu Manzano is no longer Juanjuboy chief. I would have asked him to arrest them." With a report from Christine Q Jiguerra

The Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma Foundation proudly announces that the 1st Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma AWARD is presented to

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For unceasingly serving the country and the Filipino people even after retirement and as private citizen by being chair of several cause-oriented groups among them, Kilusang Bayan, Bantay Katarungan, and the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation; and for his noteworthy publications on the country's struggle towards the goals of justice and democracy.

Senator Salonga will be honored by the Foundation on November 23, 2009, Monday at 6:30 pm at the Isla Ballroom of the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel.

The event will also be graced by Ambassador Alberto Encinas, Jr. as the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

For inquiries, you may call the Foundation Secretariat at 486-0144 or send an email at justicepalmafoundation@gmail.com.

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SPORTS

Amazing Aces trip TJ Giants; Realtors score

By Marc S. Carillo

ALASKA BROKE AWAY IN THE THIRD quarter and roared to a 104-87 triumph over Purefoods last night to stay firmly entrenched on top of the EFC-PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Gamela Lit Tenorio and Willie Miller did the most damage for the Aces, posting a combined 44 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists.

The boys were in command throughout, taking leads of as many as 22 points on the way to winning for the second time in three nights and improving their league-leading record to 6-1.

Gaelen Joseph five scored six of his 16 points and Ted a key point in overtime as Sta. Lucia dodged the upset jinx with an 80-77 victory

Westwood tops Race to Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—LEE WESTwood birdied England actor Ian Spencer Tom's first Fiercin Dubai on Sunday after shooting an 8 under 64 in the final round to capture the Dubai Desert Championship by one stroke.

Westwood totaled 23 under 265 at the Earth Course to finish one stroke ahead of Irish Rory McIlroy (67) Ireland Harrow (67).

With the victory, Westwood earned $1.25 million to avoid relegation on the season-long money list, plus $1.5 million for topping the tournament.

LAKAS HUMILIATES [illegible]

[illegible] over Barako Bull.

The Bolts stood a 66-60 deficit early in the [illegible] for a 72-69 lead[illegible] ing into the final 5:33 that eventually [illegible] ered like Lastimosa a fourth meeting (3-1) and.

Barako Bull (2-7) blew a 69-[illegible] advantage to take a fifth straight loss finish on the clock.

Tenorio made off six field goal attempts and a few threes for 16 points before finishing with 14, while Miller had 22 and eight boards.

"There's a whole second round to go, but this game was big for us because we really needed to swallow to ourselves that we can get going again," coach Tim Cone said.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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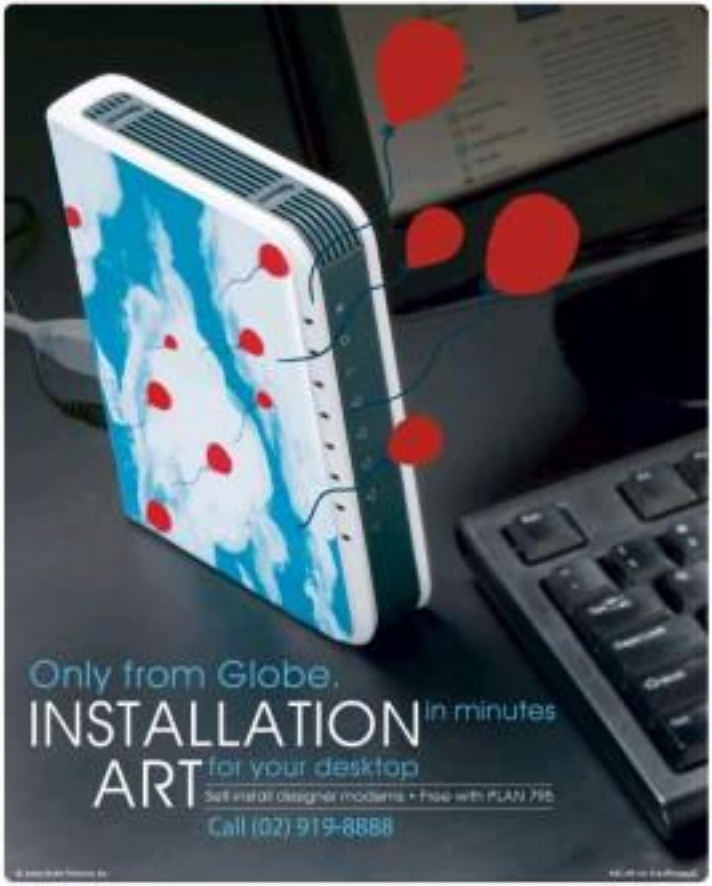

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Globe BROADBAND

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulandey

DID YOU KNOW

IN THE 18th century, the number of Chinese immigrants who had come to the Philippines in trade had grown so rapidly that the Spaniards, who felt threatened by their presence, ordered them to live in an area called Parian.

Cyril L. Bonalaris, Inquirer Research

111 CASES REPORTED SINCE NOVEMBER 2008

Kids stone cars on NLEx

By Benedict T. Hutalidad

SEVEN MOTORISTS were damaged last week in stone-throwing incidents on the South Luzon Expressway (NLEx).

Although no one was reported killed or injured, the Toll Regulatory Board-operated Corp. (TRBC), operator of the superhighway, urged motorists to report similar incidents so that the perpetrators would be identified and punished.

In a statement, TRBC spokesperson Liz Mafnlac yesterday said that members of the Roadway Security and Intelligence Group were investigating the seven cases of stone-throwing incidents which took place on Nov. 16.

She added that the victims reported that their vehicles' windshields and windows were damaged when children, believed to be living in caravan near NLEx, threw stones at them as they were traveling on the expressway.

Mafnlac said that since Nov. 16 last year, there have been 111 stone-throwing incidents reported on NLEx, most of which took place between Balintawak and Sta. Rita.

2 men injured in blast

TWO MEN were hurt when a still unidentified man lobbed a grenade inside a house in Pasay City.

Arnel Villareal, 32, of Damp Pulad Street, Balagtas in Bocaue, and Antonio de Jesus, 35, of Bakayaan Village, suffered shrapnel wounds when a grenade went off in Villareal's house at around 9:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Both were taken to a hospital for treatment.

SPO2 Joel Lucido Jr. said the victims were drinking when a man passed by and threw a grenade at them.

Alfonso W. Lopez

METRO Citizen's call

0918-8885566

Dengue-prone superhighway

ATTENTION, Department of Health, please check big creeks pero filled with water on South Superhighway. These could lead to dengue cases.

Jimi, 47, Marcelo, Bonita City

Slow reon at work

I WALLOP our place in BF Homes Parañaque has seeming power? But the digging and construction has been taking forever, causing heavy traffic in our narrow roads, specifically Mindanao and Sancha Cruz Streets. I hope these reon-ruan work during nighttime since there are fewer cars. They should also be given overtime pay just to make them work faster.

Ali Balthazar, 23, Parañaque City

Buses take over streets

MAYAMASIRIG public buses ang pamapasada sa Ilaya para sa mo-nday passenger buses parked na L. M. Guerrero, Vazquez at Rafael Rivera, especially from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. They block the gates of houses, making it hard for residents to go in and out. Drivers also unfriendly sa wall lessons.

Pauline Xi, Calaveras City

Motorist offers suggestions

MAYNA this honorable MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando sar-relatively to lessays on redesigning Edsa to walk-a-way. Dat sar-commodates and road users find his design utterly useless. For example, the loading and unloading bay with two spaces when paid are would suffice. Or why the MMDA allows vehicles making a U-turn to from two lanes, sometimes even three. There should be only one line. There is the reconstruction should be bidirectional so anybody who wants to make a U-turn, in addition, the yellow lane for passenger buses on Edsa should be reduced to just one lane.

Pol Espolio, 68, Pasig City

Not Fernando's fault

THIS Citizen response to the question posed by Eugenio delos Reyes to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando in the Citizen's Call issue on Nov. 2. He asked why Fernando issued permits which paved the way for the demolition of President Vi-Mayor. The village was already existing in the '70s when Fernando was still a student. There were two reasons behind this. Mr. Delos Reyes is backing up the wrong tree.

R. Reyes, 41, Makiken City

NEW KING OF THE ROAD

Ronald Benitez, 41, of Manila writes: "Pedicabs in front of the LRT Vito Cruz station and De La Salle University are causing heavy traffic on Taft Avenue. With no motorcar pedestrian, Malaya'ne ito para walang gumagawa ang local government. (There's no man's-man for pedestrians. This has been going on for a long time but the local government has made no action.)

JEP CANLAS

Rampant corruption at city hall?

GRABE na ang corruption at tokgawan sa Registry of Deeds ng Cumahan's campaign at the Registry of Deeds at Quezon City Hall. Every now you make-ends up in lottery. Paging Mayor Bonny Belmonte, please clean up city hall.

TJ, 40, Quezon City

Read by day, market by night

Ambulo Sir na ba kayong isang sirpadestrian engineer-sakit na sana kaso ng-pandamic at sky-tell ay nagging lalapas-pagbabag ay zone? Pero lahy-inadvance nga pedestrian. Pero kaya sa lahipak City dawa you wanna sky whose main trademark was front of a church and city hall bonkosky sympbit straight? Go to Antipolo City.

Dario Reyes, 55, Antipolo City

Trash remains uncollected

MAGKAMAW sa local ng Provident Villages sa Pamandayan ang mga basura up-to-now (Garbage) still piled up until now in Provident Villages by the residents.

Lourdes Carey, 29, Makiken City

Overpass for vendors

ATTENTION, MMDA. People can-not use the Doa Soledad Commonwealth overpass because of illegal peddlers using the pathway as their store space.

Chit, 48, Bonita City

METRO BRIEFS

Teen stabbed dead by drunks

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy was stabbed to death by a group of men before dawn yesterday on Manila Diddy Road, a resident of 1734 Kahilakot in Pandacan, was declared dead on arrival by attending doctors at Dupkot ng Maynila due to multiple stab wounds. PCO Nonoverdated Rosario of the Manila Police District said Sodi was walking home with two friends when they passed by several men who were drinking at around 2:30 a.m. yesterday on President Quirino bridge in Paco. Without any provocation, the group blocked the youngsters' path and stabbed Sodi. The men then escaped as Sodi's friends took him to a hospital.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Boy killed by stray bullet

A 9-YEAR-OLD boy playing in a vacant lot was killed when a stray bullet hit him in the head on Saturday evening in Manila. The victim was identified as Mohammad Ryan Imam, of 19 Kawalan corner Carlos Palanca Streets, 62, in San Miguel. He was declared dead on arrival by attending doctors at Mary Chiles Hospital. SPO2 Jonathan Atienza, homicide case investigator, said the boy was playing at the vacant lot of the Lord Sandra of the Philippines on Carlos Palanca Street when a shot rang out. The boy's uncle, Ismael Pinto, said he saw his nephew fall to the ground. The bullet narrowed from the victim's body but a print for suspected shots although police said they were conducting a follow-up investigation to identify owners of same guns.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Green vehicles join parade

A COLORFUL assortment of green vehicles—bicycles, jeepneys and cars powered by environment-friendly fuel—joined a parade the other day in the Quezon Memorial Circle to raise awareness about the effects of climate change and global warming, especially in underdeveloped countries. The event was incidentalized as "Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week." "All of us know of a war looming against climate change. We need to rally our people to help reduce our carbon emission by promoting alternative transportation," said Atienza as he urged the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Global Warming and Climate Change. Dubbed the Green Technology Fair, the parade featured 28 electric tricycles from Taguig City, cars which run on compressed natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas, and a solar-powered car from De La Salle University. Lawrence Ang, also of the DPWUC, said the parade also included a hydrogen-powered pickup truck and 14 electric and LPG van jeepneys. "This is showcase the available technology we have which could lessen the harmful effects of most fuels on the environment," Ang said.

John M. Jurado

Gun-toting driver's appeal to keep firearms nixed

By Marlon Ramos

THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) has stood by its order to revoke all the firearms licenses it had issued to a certain accused of pointing a gun at ABS-CBN news anchor Cheryl Cosim during a traffic altercation.

Chief Supt. Irene Bacalzo, PNP Security Group (PSG) chief, opposed the plea of Richard Ordoñez for the PNP to reconsider its decision to cancel the permits for his six firearms after he was sued by Cosim for grave threats and illegal possession of firearms.

Cosim, 35, said Ordoñez threatened to shoot her and her three companions after his vehicle nearly sideswiped her sport utility vehicle on Congressional Avenue in Quezon City on Nov. 2.

For public safety

In a letter to Ordoñez's lawyer Redentorito Villanueva, Bacalzo said the mere filing of criminal cases against gun owners "would warrant revocation of license to ensure public order and safety."

"We regret to inform you that your request is hereby denied by [the CSG] and its previous decision sustained for the revocation of the firearms licenses [issued to] Mr. Richard C. Ordoñez," Bacalzo said.

"A license is merely a privilege to do what otherwise would be unlawful and it is not a contract between the authority granting it and the person to whom it is granted," he added, quoting a court decision involving a similar case.

Instead of appealing the revocation of his gun permits, Ordoñez should just surrender all his firearms, PNP spokesperson, Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina, said.

Based on CSG records, Ordoñez failed to renew the permits for the four handguns and two rifles which were previously registered under his name.

"So this regarding appeal for firearms ownership and possession, the PNP will not tolerate unlawful actions and abuse by irresponsible gun owners," Espina said in a statement.

crocs

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Due to the growing popularity of the Crocs™ brand, counterfeit Crocs™ shoes are now being openly sold in the Philippines at marked down prices.

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2. **Examine the tag! Every pair of genuine** Crocs™ has its own unique barcode number, model name, color and size printed on the tag. If you see the same barcode number on the tags of other shoes of a different model, then it is an imitation.
3. **Verify the products and retail sources!** All Crocs™ products, and the list of Crocs™ Concept Stores and authorized retailers are posted in www.crocs.com.ph. If you see a shoe with the Crocs™ brand in a design or color that is not shown on the website, then it is not an authentic Crocs™ product.

Contact the official Crocs Service Centre in the Philippines at Tel: 0916-5918585, for further enquiries regarding the above guidelines and the availability of genuine Crocs™ products in the Philippines.

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MESSAGES

MALACAÑANG PALACE
Manila

The East Asian Seas comprise one of the world's thirteen regional seas as recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme. Tagid dagiti nasao a dayat ken baybay ti lima (5) a pagilian, nangnangruna dagiti Filipinas, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, ken Timor-Leste. Ti kaadda ti East Asian Seas ket maysa iti kangrunaan a gundaway ti Filipinas tapno mangipakita iti lubong ti kinapateg ti kalikagum ken panangsalaknib iti natibker a tattao ken kalikasan ti dayta a rehion.

Ti Filipinas ket maysa iti nangrugian a nangpirma iti Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) a nangtaginayon iti integrated coastal management (ICM) a pamay-an tapno maipaay ti naimbag a panagbiag dagiti tattao iti aglawlaw ti dayta a dayat. Ti PEMSEA ket nangtulong iti nasurok a 20 a tawen tapno maipaay ti naimbag a panagbiag dagiti tattao iti aglawlaw ti dayta a dayat. Ti Filipinas ket maysa iti nangrugian a nangpirma iti Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) a nangtaginayon iti integrated coastal management (ICM) a pamay-an tapno maipaay ti naimbag a panagbiag dagiti tattao iti aglawlaw ti dayta a dayat.

East Asian Seas eas Congress 2009

Philippine International Convention Center, Manila

Programme of Activities

DAY 1: Monday - 23 November 2009

A.M. Opening Ceremonies

P.M. Special Session on Disaster Management

Seminars on Local Action, Global Contribution and Ecosystem Approach to Conservation and Fisheries Management

Workshops on Post-Graduate Integrated Coastal Management Curriculum Development and Green Ports

Trade Forum

Seminar: Contributions of Marine Economy Sectors to National and Regional GDP in an Unstable / Volatile / Recessionary World Post-May 2009 Perspectives, Addressing Trade Distortions Impacts through Regional Cooperation, Issues, Opportunities in Coral Reef, Land, and Sea - and Zoning Challenges and Approaches

DAY 2: Tuesday - 24 November 2009

A.M. Trade Forum

P.M. Session Government Officials' Meeting

Logistical Changes

Partner Coastal States Policy and Legislation Implementation and Best Initiatives, Compliance/Industry Performance Effective and Consistent Preservation Measures to Marine Pollution in Coastal Areas, Meeting Challenges of Water Shortage in Marine Living Land through Integrated Coastal Management

DAY 3: Thursday - 25 November 2009

A.M./P.M. Special Meeting on Blossom Asset Monitoring (GL-SEA Plus)

Trade Forum

Corporate Social Responsibility

Workshop on Opportunities for Sustainable Regional Mechanism (SCLMEP Space Workshop), Special GEF Partnership Council Meeting

Ministerial Issues Briefing

Seminar: Land-based Development and Sustainable Coastal Tourism, Transboundary Pollution Reduction in River Basins and Coastal Areas, Environmental Education on Biodiversity, Safety in the Context of the Convention on Biodiversity

DAY 4: Friday - 26 November 2009

A.M. Closing of the International Conference

Opening of the Ministerial Forum: Keynote Speech of the Secretary-General Efforts Managed Areas

P.M. Ministerial Issues Forum

Partnerships at Work: Local implementation and Good Practices

Reviving the East Asian Seas

SEAS OF EAST ASIA

Represent one of the world's centers for tropical marine biodiversity

1.9 billion estimated number of people living within a hundred kilometers of the region's coasts

7 million square kilometers - total sea area of the Seas of East Asia

30% part of the world's coral reefs and mangroves that thrive in East Asian Seas

40% – amount of world's fish catch that East Asian Seas provide

94% – amount of the world's aquaculture of the East Asian Seas

Out of the 198 seas in the world, the seas of East Asia play a most vital role as its waters contain rich and varied natural resources which supply food, medicines, livelihood and security to about a third of the entire human race.

The seas of East Asia are made up of six subregional seas, namely, the East China Sea, Yellow Sea, South China Sea, Sulu-Sulawesi, Indonesian Seas, and the Gulf of Thailand.

These seas are of great ecological and economic importance to the region. They support 30% of the world's coral reefs and mangroves and produce about 40% of the world's fish catch and 84% of world's aqua-culture. They also represent one of the world's centers for tropical marine biodiversity.

More than 1.9 billion people live in the East Asian region and 17% of the total population dwells in the region's coastal cities. The Philippines, an archipelagic country, has a vast coast-line of 22,540 kilometers. More than 50% of the country's municipalities reside in coastal areas (832 municipalities out of 1,541 are in coastal areas).

Urgent threats

Drama are we, as we have once imagined, inexhaustible resources. They are not as vast or infinite that our abusive activities cannot take its toll on its marine diversity. In fact, the evidence is just the opposite.

The continuous migration of the region's growing populations (which is still expected to balloon up to 3 billion by 2015) to the coastal areas exerts the greatest pressure on East Asia's marine environment and coastal resources. Its degradation continues because of the overuse and over-development of coastal zones, causing devastating effects on marine life.

Coastal development destroys critical habitats of valuable fish species and makes the coastal waters a dumping ground for oil, grease, and toxic pollutants.

According to the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), the dynamic economic growth and rising global demands for fishery and aquaculture products (met largely by export products from the East Asian Seas) and rapidly increasing shipping traffic also put pressure on East Asia's marine environment and coastal resources. Other major threats to ocean health include overfishing and other destructive fishing practices that deplete the seas' fish populations.

Climate change also has a profound impact on coastal and marine ecosystems through rising sea levels. It damages habitat-rich coral reefs due to increased ocean acidification, and the swell of climate change, destroys shell-forming creatures, which could have impacts throughout the entire marine food chain.

Fostering national and regional commitments

"Let us change the way we think about and manage our seas to help avert the further exploitation of our waters. The seas of East Asia should remain its healthy marine life and abundant resources," said DENR Secretary Lito Atienza.

Cooperation between the environment and every sector of society, where people of every generation work hand in hand, is an essential step in securing the sustainability of the East Asian seas, he added.

Atienza says rich nations' pledges vs. global warming crucial in saving East Asian Seas

As Asian nations meet in Manila for the 3rd East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress from November 23 to 27, getting developed countries take the extra step to mitigate global warming is touted as critical to efforts to conserve the health of East Asian seas.

DENR Secretary Lito Atienza called on rich nations to seriously look at efforts to protect the region's coastal and marine resources which should be regarded as "an investment" that has to be shouldered "by other potential beneficiaries, particularly the developed economies."

Saying that the 3rd EAS Congress "unfolds against the pervasive backdrop of climate change," Atienza reiterated that "mitigating climate change will thus, be a necessary part of efforts to save the East Asian Seas" where coral reefs is at risk of bleaching caused by global warming.

Said Atienza: "The same observations applies to the East Asian Seas, because these seas are vital not just to the countries with territorial jurisdiction over them, but to the rest of our planet as well…and if the sea level rises by a meter or so as a result of the melting of the of the polar ice caps, millions upon millions of people in East Asia's coastal communities will be displaced."

Atienza, likewise, noted the steps to protect the country's marine resources from the effects of climate change – steps that also could be replicated in other countries.

In particular, Atienza pointed out that the issuance of Executive Order No. 533 by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2006 ushered in the adoption of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) as a national strategy to ensure the sustainable development of the country's coastal and marine environment and resources.

PROTECTING THE COUNTRY'S WATER BODIES. The DENR warns of an "environmental threatness" in Laguna de Bay unless decisive steps are taken now against illegal fishpens that occupy 30% of the bay. The lake, which is the largest in the country, has a potential to "jumpstart" sustainable development in the whole of Metro Manila, Southern Luzon and even portions of Central Luzon.

The Philippine Archipelago: a Boon and a Bane

DENR Secretary Lito Atienza says the Philippines' geographical location as an archipelago is both a blessing and a problem in terms of the impacts of climate change.

Atienza said that as a tropical country it is blessed with immense natural resources including mineral, forest, water, and biodiversity resources but at the same time, vulnerable to the effects of climate change such as extreme weather conditions, typhoons and storm surges. And being located in the Pacific ring of fire, earthquakes and other natural phenomenon strike the country every now and then.

"Twenty four typhoons visit the country annually and they almost always bring floods and landslides. The presence of a great number of volcanoes that makes the Philippines one of the most mineralized countries in the world, bring damage to lives and properties after eruptions than the immediate flow of wealth and economic development that mining should bring," he explained.

He added that the threat of a sea level rise will result in the sinking of areas located in Metro Manila, Pangasinan, Bulacan, Cavite, Bicol, and Palawan including some of its islands.

He said that climate change also threatened to disturb most of its wildlife, some of which are found nowhere else in the world.

In Asia, Atienza said that the region's wealth of marine biodiversity owes much of its profusion to ocean and migration patterns. Global warming can cause massive bleaching of corals, and can alter the migration patterns of various species. Mitigating climate change will thus be a necessary part of efforts to save the Seas of East Asia and ensure their sustainable development.

"A change in attitude is what we need. The solutions must start within ourselves," Atienza stressed that planting trees, proper waste disposal, saving energy and water, and carbon reduction will lessen the impacts of climate change," Atienza stressed.

Philippine International Convention Center, Manila

The East Asian Seas Congress 2009 comes in the time as excited countries meet in the presence of an abundant and sustainable marine and coastal resource system in the region.

The Congresses of 2001 and 2002 have witnessed successful breakthroughs in initiatives for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia. Among these were the endorsements of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) as the region's central action plan, and the signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement and Partnership Operating Agreements, which strengthened partnerships between government and non-government stakeholders.

The 2009 Congress now reviews the progress in the implementation of the SDS-SEA and addresses the achievements and challenges that remain, while planning for further actions and measures under the continuing advancement of the sustainability of the Seas of East Asia.

With more than a thousand delegates coming from all over the region and the rest of the world, the 2009 Congress features numerous exhibitions, seminars, group meetings and activities that altogether strengthen our collaborative efforts toward addressing the current issues on and finding key measures for specific aspects of coastal and ocean management and governance.

Together with the Government of the Philippines and supporters, namely the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office for Project Services and the Coastal Management Center, we thank each one for your active participation and efforts toward the success of the 2009 East Asian Seas Congress!

RAPHAEL P. M. LOTILLA
Executive Director
PEMSEA Resource Facility

In line with the goal of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to mainstream global environmental issues, we are honored to take part in the 2009 East Asian Seas Congress in Manila, the Philippines.

This third Congress undertaken triennially serves as an instrument in achieving our collective goal of the protection of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of reforms and investments leading towards protecting our coastal and marine resources through active partnerships among governments, stakeholders or the final stake such as biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, and others.

A gathering of environmental experts and delegates from the regional and international arenas, this Congress provides many activities for discussions, meetings, knowledge-based sessions and forums that delve on relevant environmental issues and current and future programmes.

An outstanding witness to the birth and evolution of the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and the continued progress from various initiatives taken by all partners, with the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) at the helm of regional and local levels, the GEF will definitely benefit from the Congress' deliberations and outcomes in its endeavor to address the coastal-climate variability, sea level rise, water scarcity and degradation, and loss of protected areas ("blue forests"). We are truly assured and confident that the Congress can only bring more successes in efforts to strengthen partnerships and their commitments to protect the global environment and promote environmentally sustainable development in the region and the world.

We thank and congratulate our host, the Philippine Government, and our co-organizers and supporters for all the dedication and hard work poured into this significant occasion!

We welcome one and all to the 2009 East Asian Seas Congress!

YUKA OKADA-HAY
Secretariat

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The 2009 East Asian Seas Congress brings to the fore a refreshing opportunity in creating a clean, safe and sustainable environment. It offers a venue for exchanging ideas, sharing harmonized creative and constructive reviews on current initiatives and results.

As highlight of the Congress is the International Conference on Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Development, in which various workshops feature Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) in sustainable and clean development. Among these co-convened by the UNDP discuss the challenges of climate change at the local government level and current programmes addressing the ICM approach, and tackles the local livelihoods and community benefits from sustainable coastal tourism programmes.

As implementing agency of the PEMSEA, we are in full and continued support of its focus to protect the coastal and marine environment, sustainable use and management of coastal and marine resources through intergovernmental, interagency and multisectoral partnerships.

Let us make use of this momentous event to take on the collective challenge of turning the global environmental crisis into a path of sure commitment to the responsibilities toward each other, future generations, our fellow creatures and the planet we jointly occupy.

With the Government of the Philippines and the PEMSEA, the GEF, the UNDP and the UNEP, we warmly welcome you all to this meaningful event.

Welcome to the 2009 East Asian Seas Congress!

JACQUELINE McGLADE
United Nations Assistant Secretary-General
& UNEP Regional Representative

Are ads true? New US lawsuits ask for proof

NEW YORK—COMPANIES THAT WERE once content to fight in grocery-store aisles and on television commercials are now choosing a different arena— filing lawsuits and other formal grievances challenging their competitors' claims.

Long-time foes like Pantene and Dove, Sprint and Verizon, AT&T and Motorola Wireless, and Campbell Soup and Progresso have all unveiled new advertisements recently.

The suits themselves might seem a little absurd—an argument over hyped-up advertising copy that not many consumers take at face value. Pantene has attacked Dove's claim that its conditioner "repairs four better," and Sprint has been challenged on its fast, "No other dog feel wants up like Sierra."

Starting advertisers, however, argue that these claims can mislead consumers and cause a pronounced drop in sales. Because advertisers are required by law to have a reasonable factual basis for their commercials, their competitors are essentially demanding that they show their hand.

The goal is usually not money but market share. Companies file complaints to get competitors' ads withdrawn or amended. The lawsuits in these actions may be a reflection of the dismal economy: During recessions, when overall spending lags, marketers must fight harder for customers.

"In this economy, when margins are a bit tighter, a lot of marketing departments have decided to become more aggressive in going after their competitors in the hopes that they can either protect their market position or capture additional market share," said John F. McInerney, a law partner at Ridley, Dyer & Weiss who specializes in advertising.

The number of complaints over ads from competitors filed with the National Advertising Division of the Council of Better Businesses Bureaus, the industry's main self-regulatory program for national ads, is on track to set a record this year. There have been 82 formal complaints or fix in 2009, after last year's record of 64 challenges, a sharp increase from 44 in 2007 and 32 in 2006.

Other companies file false advertising lawsuits under the Lanham Act, enacted in 1946 to strengthen trademark law. While there are no reliable tracking numbers on cases filed under that law, lawyers say they are seeing an increase. AFP

ericsson.com

WORLD CLASS

Ericsson congratulates Sun Cellular for being named the 2009 Agora Marketing Company of the Year by the Philippine Marketing Association.

We are proud to be your partner in bringing the most innovative, ground-breaking mobile communications services to the Filipino people. Ericsson remains committed to providing Sun Cellular with the world's leading communications technologies to support its dynamic growth and expansion.

Congratulations, Sun Cellular!

ERICSSON

PHOTO taken on November 21, 2008 shows flames and smoke gushing from the Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai, one of the sites of attacks by alleged militant gunmen. AFP

2 linked to Mumbai attacks arrested

ROME—ITALIAN POLICE SAID arrested a Pakistani father and son who allegedly spent just over $200 to set up a reliable and untraceable phone network that was used by the militants who carried out last year's terror attacks in Mumbai, India.

The men were arrested in small in Brescia on Saturday, when they ran a money-transfer agency, and it is was not immediately clear if they were aware of the purpose their funds had served, police in the northern Italian city said.

The day before the attacks began on Nov. 26 that they allegedly used a mobile phone SIM card bought through the agency, police said.

The two millionaires, allegedly from Pakistan, killed 166 people in a three-day assault on luxury hotels, a Jewish center and other sites in India's financial capital. One Italian was among the 29 foreigners killed.

The money from Brescia was transferred under the identity of another Pakistani who had never been to Italy and was not involved in the attacks, Rossi said.

He flew to Spain and his identity was probably stolen when he used another money transfer agency somewhere in the world, Rossi told a news conference.

The order to open the accounts with the Cellphone company came three to two men in Pakistan, he said. Rossi added that Indian authorities had shared details of their activities with Pakistani officials.

The two suspects in Brescia, identified in a police statement as 60-year-old Mohammad Yaqub Janjua and 33-year-old Ameen Yaqub Janjua, are accused of aiding and abetting international terrorism as well as illegal financial activity. The Shalbar Trading agency which operated on the Western Union money transfer circuit, was seized by police.

Cellphone and Western Union say are accused of any wrongdoing. The companies did not return messages seeking comment on Saturday. Western Union has said it cooperates fully in fighting terrorism and has spent millions worldwide to compliance efforts. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Top Iranian reformer jailed for 6 years, say media

TEHRAN—A influential Iranian vice president, who was arrested after Iran's disputed presidential election in June, has been sentenced to six years in jail, Iranian newspapers reported on Sunday. Mohammad Ali Abtahi, one of dozens of leading reformists arrested after the June election, was convicted of committing crimes against protests and arrested, was officially informed about his sentence on Saturday. Abtahi is a Tehran daily said. Abtahi, a cleric who was vice president for parliamentary and legal affairs during the 1997-2005 presidency of Mohammad Khatami, would be the most senior reformist to be jailed so far after the election more than five months ago. Reuters

Jackson's glove sells for $350,000 at auction

NEW YORK—Michael Jackson's famous white glove sold for $350,000 at a memorabilia auction on Saturday, soaring far past pre-sale estimates, while a black jacket he wore during a 1980 world tour fetched $225,000. The Jackson memorabilia was the highlight of an auction of hundreds of rock n' roll items. The auction was coincidental with the "King of Pop," who died in June. Darren Julien, CEO of Julien's Auctions, which ran the auction, called the glove "the Holy Grail of Michael Jackson," and many expected it to sell for far more than its pre-sale estimate of about $18,000. Reuters

Khmer Rouge prison chief readies for final arguments

PHNOM PENH—Cambodia's war crimes court this week hears final arguments in the trial of the Khmer Rouge prison chief, with Duch expected to apologize for the regime's horrors in a bid to lessen his sentence. Duch, 67, has repeatedly used the UN-backed court since hearings started in February to publicly ask forgiveness for overseeing the murders of around 16,000 people at the Tuol Sleng torture center three decades ago. AFP

Pope, Anglican leader agree on closer relations

VATICAN CITY—AFTER OFFERING A home to his church to disaffected Anglicans, Pope Benedict XVI assured the archbishop of Canterbury that he is still committed to seeking closer relations between Catholics and Anglicans.

Archbishop Rowan Williams said he came away convinced there was no "deadend" on his church by Rome, telling Vatican Radio he wishes "every blessing" for those who want to become Catholics.

Williams and Benedict met privately for 25 minutes on Saturday in what the Vatican called "cordial discussions," as part of what has already been a difficult visit by the Anglican leader.

Referring to the recent overtures he made to disaffected Anglicans upset over the ordination of women and gay bishops to become Catholics, the Vatican said the talks reiterated "the shared will to continue and to consolidate the ecumenical relationship between Catholics and Anglicans."

Williams' visit to Rome had been long planned but the Vatican overture to conservative Anglicans, for which he was reportedly received little advance notice, cast a shadow over the trip and raised questions about the future of relations between Rome and the 77-million strong worldwide Anglican Communion, which includes the US Episcopal Church. AP

A new weapon against cholesterol

THE PARTICLES THAT FERRY CHOLESterol through the bloodstream are known as "bad" or "good", and if they expose cholesterol on vessel walls, potentially clogging them, good if they carry the cholesterol on to the liver for excretion.

Now, scientists have created tiny particles in the laboratory that mimic those good carriers, scooping up the cholesterol before it can grow into dangerous deposits of plaque. The new-formed tissue nave particles are coated with fats and proteins so they can bind tightly with the sticky cholesterol on a passport it through the bloodstream.

The particles may someday be important in treating cardiovascular disease, said Dr. Andrei Reil, chief of the division of nanomedicine and director of the Center for Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"Researchers have endowed these artificial particles with the same properties as natural particles that circulate in the blood," called Dr. Reil, who was not involved in the work. The artificial carriers are close in size to those plaque are otherwise inplate, leading to strokes and heart attacks.

The particles may be useful not only in cardiovascular therapy but also in diagnosis. The researchers have put gold and other metal cores at the center of the particles, Sel said, as they pass they show up well in medical imaging. Such imaging could be used to monitor plaques as they build up in blood vessels.

Boston clinics at Northwestern University have designed artificial HDL nanoparticles. They replaced the fatty core found in natural HDL with gold nanoparticles.

A research group at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in Manhattan has developed HDL-like nanoparticles intended primarily for imaging and diagnosis. NYT

Proton beams back on track at Collider

PHYSICISTS RE-turned to their favorite toy Friday about 10 p.m. scientists Geneva, switzerland, at CERN, the particle-physics laboratory, successfully sending beams of protons clockwise around the 17-mile underground magnetic racetrack known as the Large Hadron Collider, the world's biggest and most expensive physics experiment.

For physicists, the event was a milestone, one that comes back from disaster and the resumption of a 14-year, $9 billion quest to investigate laws and forces that prevailed when the universe was less than a billionth of a second old.

The collider was designed to accelerate protons to energies of seven trillion electron volts apiece and smash them together in tiny fireballs in an effort to replicate and study the conditions of the big Bang.

The first cross protons smashed the collider on Sept. 10, 2008, and seven were celebrated with champagne and midnight jaunts parties around the world. But the Dr. debris were cut short a few days later, when an electrical connection between a pair of the collider's giant magnets overheated, a helium-gas vaporized.

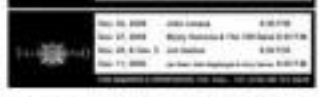
Subsequent work revealed that the machine was riddled with thousands of connections unable to handle the high currents required to run the collider at its intended energy.

Physicists and engineers have been working for the past year sorting and making repairs. While they have not replaced all the faulty connections, they have patched things up enough to allow the collider to run at less than half speed.

When the collider begins to do real physics next year, it will run at half its original design energy, with protons of 3.5 trillion electron volts. The energy will be increased gradually during the year, but it could be years, physicists say, before the machine reaches its full potential.

Thousands of the troublesome connections still have to be rebuilt during a yearlong shutdown in 2011, and engineers have to figure out why several dozen of the superconducting magnets seem to have lost their ability to operate at high intensities.

It all goes well, CERN says, the proton will start colliding at low energies in about a week. NYT



The WORLD

Editor Lamberto B. Gianco

Japan to admit secret nuclear pact with US

TOKYO—A JAPANESE GOVERNMENT team has found documents on an alleged secret pact with the United States to transport nuclear weapons through its territory, after decades of official denial, reports said Sunday.

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's center-left government launched a probe into the alleged secret pact and other secret agreements with the US days after it took office in September.

The probe team requested its Foreign Minister Hirofumi Okada on Friday that it had discovered documents linked to the pact from among thousands of files at the foreign ministry, the Mainichi Shimbun and Yomiuri Shimbun newspapers reported, citing unnamed ministry sources.

"Foreign ministry officials 'nuclear secret pact'? declared the headline in the Mainichi Shimbun, while the Sunrise Shimbun echoed: "Investigators view likely to change 'nuclear secret pact.'" The existence of the agreement has been denied for decades by previous conservative administrations, even though US documents declassified last month showed US officials believed they had an understanding with Japan when the allies signed a new security treaty in 1960.

"The question of black or white will become clear in January '08, will clear the burden of [current administrations which had insisted there was no secret pact," Okada said facing the newspapers reported.

Okada will set up a committee of experts to examine the documents before announcing the government's final judgment in January whether the secret pact did indeed exist, they said.

Japan, the only nation to have suffered nuclear attacks and which has unyielding for the worldwide abolition of the ultra-destructive weapons, has had a policy of not possessing, producing or allowing nuclear weapons on its territory since 1967.

The probe team is believed to have found documents related to the records of discussions in 1960 when Japan and the United States signed a new security treaty, the newspaper reports said.

A confidential US State Department memo prepared in 1960 for then Secretary of State Christian Herter said Washington had to consult Japan on the "introduction of nuclear weapons," but it said that the US, which has stationed troops in Japan since its defeat in World War II, could use Japanese soil "as needed" in an emergency if communist neighbor North Korea launched an attack.

In 1991, then US president George Bush announced that US vessels would no longer carry tactical atomic arms, resolving any pact with Japan allowing US nuclear-armed ships to visit elsewhere.

The Japanese team is also probing other alleged pacts on a contingency plan on the Korean peninsula, allowing nuclear weapons on Japanese soil in the event of an emergency and an agreement for Japan to pay costs linked to returning the southern island of Okinawa to Japan in 1972 after US military occupation.

The US dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, killing more than 210,000 people and ending World War II. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Defense, Lebron send Cavs soaring /A36

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres • Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Dichoso

Mayol nails WBC light fly title

Sonsona surrenders WBO crown after failing to make weight

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THE PHILIPPINES' Rustin Mayol celebrates with handlers after dethroning Mexican champion Edgar Sosa in Saturday's World Boxing Council (WBC) light flyweight clash via a second-round TKO in Chiapas, Mexico. At right, Mayol and Sosa exchange jabs early in the fight. /A4

By Salvador L. Lagumbay
Contributor

IT WAS A DAY OF CONTRASTING FATES for Filipino fighters yesterday with rhodel Mayol claiming a world title in sensational fashion and Marvin Sonsona losing his crown ignominiously after failing to make the weight limit.

Mayol, known as "Rising Meteor" and managed by Filipino supreme Manny Pacquiao, dethroned highly regarded Mexican Edgar Sosa via a stunning second-round technical knockout victory to wrest the WBC light flyweight crown at the Polideportivo in Tuxtla in Chiapas, Mexico.

The victory came a week after Pacquiao's sensational 12-round annihilation of Puerto Rican hero Miguel Cotto in Las Vegas that gave the world's pound-for-pound king a record seven title in seven divisions.

Sonsona, bristled at the nod Pacquiao, was stripped of his WBO super flyweight title when he tipped in two pounds over the 112 lb limit during the morning weigh-in for his defense against Mexican Alejandro Hernandez at the Casino Rama in Ontario, Canada.

The fight was still held with Sonsona, reliable to show his explosive power, settling for a split draw with Hernandez that left the title vacant.

In an interview with the bosses, Mayol said he felt that Sosa was a bit cloaked in the first round and that his punches were hurting the Mexican.

"I gave it to him because his punches came weak and I was hurting him," Mayol said in Cebuano.

Mayol knocked down Sosa in the first round moments after the two banged heads accidentally resulting in a slight cut on Sosa's head.

Sensing victory, Mayol immediately got down to work in the second round, dropping Sosa again with a combination. Sosa managed to beat the count, but was again the recipient of Mayol's barrage of punches before the referee came in to stop the contest.

"I would like to thank Manny Pacquiao for helping me and not losing faith in me," Mayol said.

He also thanked trainers Jessie Arevalo and Jeremiah Quijano and his cornerman Lt. Ed de la Vega.

Sonsona lacked training

Sonsona, who lacked the needed training for this fight according to reports, had no-contest when he could have ended it early but his punches lacked their usual sting.

Sonsona's handlers said they injected pleas to have the bout ended if the ninth proceedings to preserve his strength for the fight.

The Gentiles fighter still owns fight in the next heavier division, they added.

It was in the same Casino Rama where Sonsona won the WBO super flyweight title from Jose "Carnet" Lopez of Puerto Rico by unanimous decision last September.

Sonsona, who reign only lasted two months and 17 days, breaking the record of the shortest reign of junior welterweight Roberto Cruz who ruled and lost his world title in a span of two months and 23 days in 1963.

In the undercard, Cris "Kid Terrible" Morales of Talibon, Bohol, won by eight-round majority decision over Miguel Gonzalez of Mexico.

The 23-year-old Morales used straightening tactics to neutralize his opponent's height and reach advantage.

The scores were 77-75, 78-74 for Morales and one judge had it in 76-all.

With a report from Philboxing

Ardina tops Florida golf by 1

DOTTIE ARDINA POSTED HER FIRST VICTORY in the new season of the Futures Collegiate World Tour (FCWT), firing a two-under-par 70 in the final round to capture the Naples Beach Golf Club in Naples, Florida on last weekend.

Ardina, 15, birdied three of the five 13-holes and bunked a bogey on the par-2 16th with much pain to hold off Vivien Chor of Taiwan and rule the 36-hole tournament among girls 13 to 18 years with a 142 aggregate.

Chor, who struggled to a 75 overnight, rallied with five birdies for a tournament-best 68 but ran out of holes to settle for second at 143.

Ardina, in the thick of preparations for the Laos Slot Games with $750 golf teammates Chihiro Ikeda and the United States-based Mia Pickle, followed up on her victory in the 16-division tournament Open last week.

Ardina earned two FCWT ranking points for her top finishes last season to make it to the 2009 IPP All-American team.

Fifth-seeded leader Sophie Hayashi of Japan dropped to third with 146 after a 75.

ARDINA

Olivarez pulls thru in Phinma q'fying

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FILIPINA SHARISSE MAE OLIVAREZ USED her court familiarity and the sizzling elbow to subdue Kimella Medalenda of Azerbaijan, 6-3, 6-1, yesterday and move within a win of bagging into the main draw of the Phinma Invitational Junior tennis championships next June at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The age-group standout from one of the country's most famous tennis clans can make it to the tournament proper for 18-under players with another victory against either Japan's Inori Ishii or Serbian Jaeger Jovanovic.

Ishii took a bye while Jaeger dumped Filipina Imelda Ann Tanpoco, 6-0, 6-0.

Also trying to earn a slot were Marivel Madlos and Hilton Bugayong, who were playing against separate foreign foes at presstime.

Jaeminne Tito Rivera put up a fight before losing to Chloe's Cui Ki, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 while wild card Kimiyo Oyama fell to Japan's Inland Adachi, 6-1, 6-1. Also bowing out were Marianne de Guzman, Blechby Bomfeir, Bernaiz Leptuzan, Jeremy Cavetan, John Nemuin, Andrew Cano and Miles Jaluga.

Arcilla, Arevalo serve up PCA Open singles refrain

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT'S DESTINY FOR BOTH JOHNNY Arcilla and Czarina Mae Arevalo as the veteran duo again crowned themselves the king and queen of the PCA Open yesterday.

Playing with no mush, pride, Arcilla and Arevalo blasted young pretenders Marc Reyes and Anne Christine Panimasalo, respectively, to nail their fifth titles apiece—the most by any player in the 28 years of the tournament.

Arcilla, 38, didn't have to use brute force to outpower the spunky 20-year-old Reyes, wisely placing his shots on the slippery shell court to score a masterful 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 triumph.

It was the fourth straight title for the Linda Cup mainstay Arcilla, who also won the event in 2001.

The new Thailand-based Arevalo also kept her deadly poise against the tournament thermostat, winning 6-2, 6-3. That came a day after Arevalo eliminated her rival in the semifinals, Ayessa Darive, in the semifinals.

The 24-year-old scholar of Bangkok University also bagged the title in 2007, 2003, 2003 and 2002 to surpass the four victories scored by Maricris Fernandez and Jennifer Saret in this tournament presented by Cebuana Lhuillier.

What was billed as a battle of experience against youth proved one-sided with Arcilla humbling the Milan, Italy-based Filipino Julian Reyes, who was cheered by relatives from his parents' town in Santa Rita.

"I used my experience against [Reyes]," said Arcilla, who will vie action in the Southeast Asian Games in later nine months. "He is a good player but today I got the best."

Despite the defeat, Reyes boosted his chances of making the ISF team after accounting plans to try out for the Davis Cup squad.

"I'm happy because I proved myself," said Arevalo, the country's former No. 1 who felt slighted when she wasn't selected for the Southeast Asian Games team.

"But that's all over now; I have to step out of it."

On her way to the locker room, the bumped runs the 17-year-old Pakistan duo, the top-seed and currently ISF No. 3, who bagged and vengeanced her.

The oldest daughter of three-time PBA Most Valuable Player awardee Alvin Patrimonio couldn't hide her emotions during the match, throwing her racket in disgust four times and even hitting the ball toward the cord when she netted a return in match point.

"I know she's pressured because she is in the national team," said Arevalo.

FIVE TIME champion Johnny Arcilla shows a forehand to Marc Reyes; Czarina Mae Arevalo returns to form.

2 matches fire off PCCL 'Sweet 16' cage finals

By Gutierrez Tupas

SAN BEDA AND FEU Isuzu-U want their quest against dangerous foes in the "Sweet 16" of the 2009 Philippine Collegiate Championship Cage

EARLY TODAY
(Araneta Sports Arena, Pasig City)
2 p.m.—Far Eastern U vs Arellano
4 p.m.—UST-Cardi vs San Beda

League today at the Araneta Sports Arena in Pasig City.

The Lions, looking to erase the stigma of their NCAA side loss to San Sebastian, duel the San Sebastian Cinta Brazilian at 4 p.m.

With national development pool standout JR Cawaling and Ateneo-bound scoring threat Ian Tamayose, who claimed an outright berth in the tournament by landing third in the UAAP, are heavy favorites over the Arellano Chiefs in the 2 p.m. opener.

The Chiefs will be hamstrung by Adrian Ustia and Gio Catacutan, a member of the squad few in the NCAA reborn they finished fifth.

Arellano survived a tough court scramble in Baraded Qty, where the Chiefs beat University of San Carlos and Visayas powerhouse Palm Negros County this month.

The built-to-last Nueva champion stunned UAAP fifth placer Adamson in the Cebuano to clinch a slot in the national finals.

The winner of the 9:00 Arellano clash will play either University of the East or University of Cebu in the quarterfinals.

The Red Lions of the San Sebastian-SSC match will meet the winner of the Visayas University of the Visayas duel in the next round of the tournament sponsored by PLDT and Smart.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

In connection with Republic Act 9184, the National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on December 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Social Hall, Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City to all interested and accredited suppliers of MILLED/WHOLE/BROKEN RICE for the supply of MILLED/WHOLE/BROKEN RICE (Regular Milled Rice (RMR) 25% broken rice grain white rice WELL MILLED in 4% 25/50kg/new sack each in polypropylene bags suitable for rice exports with NFA marking with an appropriated budget from Corporate resources of P 10.0M in

annual quotas shall be as follows:

Minimum 25%	-	M.T February 2010
Maximum 25%	-	M.T April 2010
Minimum 25%	-	M.T April 2010
Balance	-	M.T May 2010

Eligible countries shall be Thailand, Vietnam, China, Pakistan, Australia, US/Latest Arrivals. No Cambodian shipment will be allowed. Emergency quantity to be offered per supplier must not be less than 100,000 MT with single price and to be shipped in mixed bulk. However, maximum volume to be sourced from Pakistan, India, Australia and India shall be 100,000 MT only. Shipments sourced from Vietnam, China and Thailand must not exceed a maximum volume of 600,000 MT.

All interested suppliers are required to submit quotations in USD/MT CFR FO on the basis of Documents Against Acceptance (DAA) with a force of two hundred seventy (270) days from receipt by NFA of the complete set of original documents and/or its equivalent on the basis of mutually acceptable documents and countersigned performed on execution. Otherwise, bids shall be considered non-responsive.

Foreign suppliers and/or source companies with pending import-related accounts/liabilities with NFA shall be considered to have had their record and are not allowed to participate in the bid.

All bidders are required to post a bid security equivalent to two percent (2%) of the ABC, in the form of Cashier's/Manager's Check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed by Universal or Commercial Bank or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank. Provided however, that it shall be confirmed or authenticated by a Universal or Commercial Bank, if issued by foreign bank.

Winning bidder/s shall submit a performance security in an amount under the Conditions of the Contract equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total contract price within five (5) working days after the receipt of the Notice of Award in the form of Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed by Universal or Commercial Bank or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by Universal or Commercial Bank. However, that it shall be confirmed or authenticated by a Universal or Commercial Bank, if issued by foreign bank.

List of eligibility requirements and instructions to bidders may be secured starting November 23, 2009 up to December 2, 2009 from MR. CARLITO S. CO, Assistant Department manager and MR. HEPTOR U. MUNARDO, Director Chief, Supply and Property Management Department, 4th Floor, PHIL Sugar Center Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, with telephone numbers 924-1960; 920-0931.

The Terms of Reference and Office Orders will likewise be available from November 23, 2009 up to December 2, 2009 except Saturdays, Sundays and Holiday 08:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P 10,000.00.

The pre-bidding conference will be held on December 7, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Social Hall, PHIL Sugar Center Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City. Opening of bids will start at exactly 10:00 a.m.

All bidders are required to read and comply with the instruction to Bidders.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals or waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept bids which is determined advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) LUDOVICO J. JARINA
Deputy Administrator and
Chairman, BAC

The first rule is to make the weight

IT'S ALWAYS DISAPPOINTING WHENEVER a Filipino loses a boxing event because of weight problems.

Marvin Sonsona lost his WBO junior bantamweight Championship Saturday in Canada even before he climbed the ring because he couldn't shed 2.6 pounds to make the required weight of 115.

Ontario boxing rules require pugilists to be weighed on the day of the fight and Sonsona could not make the grade. His handlers decided not to force Sonsona to make the weight limit lest he incur the ring debilitated and weary from the attempt.

This is in contrast to the rules in Las Vegas and other parts of the boxing world where weigh-ins are done a day before to allow the fighters a chance to recuperate from the dieting. A day of the fight weigh-in prevents the fighters from bulking up too much—with it's ill-fated losing set.

The fight still went on and Sonsona was lucky to emerge with a draw against gutsy Mexican Alejandro "Papanito" Hernandez that means the title is now vacant.

Hernandez should drop the pretense simply because he is nowhere near being a "little chavez." He took the fight strongly against Sonsona and claimed many of the succeeding rounds after Sonsona's fury died.

* * *

The first rule in the first defense of the crown should have been to make the weight.

We can listen to all the valid reasons and excuses for Sonsonon's failure to make it.

It's just that it's disappointing when you find out that a crown was gone even before the fight started. The totality of the fight is affected, no matter how much you underestimate Sonsona's boxing ability.

Battling with weight is normal in boxing. All the great ones who have had to go through the route of the lighter weights have grappled with hunger, strain reserve and added hours of running. But you must make the weight.

Ten years ago in South Korea, I saw a weary Jerry Pelaloza battle hunger to make the weight and defend his crown. He made the sacrifice so that even the quarter of a pound that had to be shed after the first weigh-in was easy to get rid of.

Pelaloza could not imagine entering the ring without his crown.

* * *

This experience is now part of Sonsona's learning curve. He will have to make sure first to make the weights of the categories he fights in.

He cannot always rely on the virility that his body is still developing and that making adequate weight is difficult.

The time will come when he will no longer be able to make that excuse.

CZARINA (from left) Oliver Bonjo, Homar Isa, Yayoi Kinoshita, Jun Noel and Allan Gregorio join Liga's Ronil Antonio (fourth from left) in yesterday's press conference.

Liga Super Leg gets going

By Jane Navarro

BOUNCING OFF A SPOTLESS RECORD, 90 Distiller Ferrys Pacific-Cebu is looking to stretch its dominance in the Super Leg championship of the 2009 Smart Liga Filipinas.

The unbeaten Nikos, who swept the eliminations with a 14-game run, begins their championship spree today against the Quezon Red Oilers at the Cebu Coliseum.

Out to foil the Nikos' aspirations other than the No. 5 Oilers are the second seed Smart-Pampanga Bubblers, Cebuanos 2 Richfielder and No. 4 seed Mindoro Oriental Mentors and No. 3 Tutor-Laguna Heatbox.

"The competition will be more fierce and we expect tougher games ahead," said Liga Filipinas operations head Butch Antonio yesterday.

While the Nikos entered the first semestric seat in the title stage, the Bubblers needed to survey their Aprayo game to pry the second Super Leg berth home from the Oilers' grasp.

The Red Oilers eventually grabbed the No. 5 slot by booting out General Santos City's MP Warriors.

SPORTSWATCH

Wesley draws first blood vs GM Guseinov

MYANTYMANSIYSK, Russia—FILIPINO GRANDMASTER Wesley So won his first match in the 2009 World Chess Cup, beating GM Gadir Guseinov of Azerbaijan Friday in the 10-round showdown at the Khanty-Mansiysk Center of Public Event.

So needs only a draw against Guseinov in their second duel set last Sunday to advance to the second round.

But GMs Jose Antonio and Darwin Laylo were not as lucky, as Antonio lost to Armenian Gabriel Sargissian and No. 27 seed GM Ilaita Kamsky of the United States while Laylo bowed to No. 21 seed GM David Navara of Czech Republic.

SEA Games-bound golfers Forum guests

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GOLF TEAM TO THE 25TH Southeast Asian Games will be the guests of the Philippine Sports Commission's Monthly Forum at 11 a.m. today at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex Grandstand in Manila.

Representing the team are player Tonton Sambo, sales team coach Gamaliel Arbolonga and team captain and Philippine Golf Association president Dr. Rodolfo Pizzuto.

Other guests in the 10:30 a.m. session are the 2009 Sports Radio 93.1 and presented by Rafael Gallery, Pagcor, Arnel and Shakey's-San Philippine Football Federation head Jose Mari Martinez and Inok Philippines' Manny Balongbayan.

8 cockpits to hold PJS-M Rambulan elims

ELIMINATIONS IN THE PCSO-MILLION NATIONWIDE FAMILY derby-sabong tilt will be staged in eight cockpits this week.

At the San Juan Coliseum, more than 1,000 fights are expected as the first batch of competitions are slated today.

The cockpits and their venues: San Pedro Coliseum and Pulse Coliseum, Nov. 28; San Manuel Complex Isabela, Nov. 29; New Tarlac Coliseum and Valenzuela Cockpit Arena, Nov. 27 and 29; Rizal Cockpit Antipolo, Nov. 28.

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

FEU ousts Ateneo in 5

By Cedelf P. Tupas

CHERRY ANN VIVAS TOOK CHARGE IN the fifth set as the Far Eastern Lady Tamaraws hacked out a pulsating (15-12, 11-25, 24-27, 28-26, 15-9) triumph over the Ateneo Lady Eagles last night in their knockout match for a semifinal berth at the FIBER Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Vivas, the league's leading scorer, finished with 25 points, including four in the final set, as the Lady Tamaraws forged a best-of-three semifinal duel with the University of Santo Tomas Tigresses starting Tuesday.

Defending champion San Sebastian settles nicknames in the other semifinal pairing.

"Our skills are improving that's why we wanted her to take charge in the fifth set," said FEU coach Ernesto Pamilar, whose squad entered the semifinal round for the second straight conference.

With Aerneo unable to consistently produce quality attacks because of its poor receptions, the Lady Tamaraws pulled away for a 10-3 advantage in the deciding set.

The Lady Eagles managed to trim the gap to two points, the last at 9-11 on Mary Rose Calucag's smashing error, before their swelling floor defense did them in again.

Calucag, who chipped in six points, made amends with a service ace that put the Lady Tamaraws at match point, then Rachel Ann Daquis scored on a smash to sweep up the victory in an hour and 56 minutes.

Daquis, who anchored the Lady Tamaraws' defense at the backline in the final set, still finished with 20 points. Shaira Gonzales contributed 22 points on 19 attacks.

Pamilar attributed the victory as a defensive adjustment in the fifth set, where he put emphasis on blocking and left just three players on the backline to cover.

"We were able to cover the angles of their attack," said Pamilar, whose team had a 72-51 edge on attack points.

The Lady Tamaraws bounced through the opening set, relenting it in just 17 minutes.

But the Lady Eagles, who were coming off a seven-hour-running five-set conquest of University of Santo Tomas, leaned on their superior blocking to take the next two frames.

Nokia RP five up against tough Syrians

THERE ARE NO MORE EASY GAMES FOR the Nokia Team Pilipinas in Div Fllis Asia Division 16-Men's Championship.

"We are now in a situation where we want to be," said RP coach Eric Altarejos after the Baisonda assept their three-game assignment in Group B Saturday. "We just have to be extra careful because from now on, every day is always battle."

After beating Japan, Kazakhstan and Bahrain, the Philippines began its quarterfinal quest against Syria last night at the Bandaraya Stadium in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

The Filipinos face the Iranians today and the Kazakhstanis tomorrow in the group battles. The Baisonda quest at least two wins to secure a semifinal slot in the tournament which slides two slots to the Fiba U-17 World Championship to Bandung next year.

The other quarterfinal group is composed of China, Korea, Chinese Taipei and Japan.

"We have to continue working hard and take one game at a time," said Altarejos.

June Navarro

Ateneo, LSGH reach finals

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS ATENEO DE Manila and La Salle Green Hills swept their elimination round matches en route to women's championship wins in the Mila-sponsored Sun Hi Fastenelle finals in Baguio City.

It will be an all-Ateneo finals in the JHF division when the Manila cagers meet their Davao counterparts. The Katipunan-based squad, eyeing a third consecutive title, whipped Xavier Bolo, 67-38; Maryhill Loreto, 93-37; and Ateneo de Davao, 99-32.

In the Fastenelle division, LSGH clubbered St. John Dagupan, 122-44; Xavier Cagayan de Oro, 102-39 and Second Hotel Cebu, 79-37, in succession.

Ateneo Davao eliminated Maryhill, 60-37, and Xavier Bolo, 50-48.

Xavier took out Sacred Heart Cebu, 102-90, and St. John Dagupan, 102-62.

The Mila-sponsored Sun. Hi Fastenelle tournament is aligned with the efforts of Mila to help maintain future champions.

Eagle Ridge tilt lures 480 pairs

PLAYING CONDITIONS WILL BE THE SAME for the 480 players seeing action in the Sun By Four Invitational of Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club rehash will cap the country's series of member-guest events on Dec. 11 and 12.

Unlike other similar tournaments which are usually stretched to as many as six days to accommodate entries, Eagle Ridge can complete a major club competition in the least number of days due to its four-course setup.

All 240 member-guest teams at Eagle Ridge will compete under the same weather conditions, using golf as it is on shotgun-style.

One of the 240 teams will claim a home or one of brand new cars in the grand raffle, while a member will go home P100,000 richer after a separate raffle for members.

Entry fee for the event presented by Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Corp. and Alsons Land Corp. is P48,000 per player. This entitles the player to an 18 orthodox player, two free practice rounds, free breakfast and lunch for both tournament days, and a raffle ticket.

Players in the men's Class A and C will compete in the Stroke and Par system while those in the men's Class B and D and ladies categories will tackle the Stable and Ackt courses.

Rain reduces LPGA Tour Championship to 54 holes

RICHMOND, TEXAS—JIMMY PAN AT THE HOUSTON4BIA COUNTRY CLUB watched out play at the LPGA Tour Championship on Saturday, forcing officials to cut the season-ending event to 54 holes. Tournament leader Jimmie Dohnan has held a shot in competition since early Thursday afternoon when she finished a first round 66. AP

Editor Teddyboy B. Melendres • Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Chiloso

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Federer-Nadal showdown for No. 1 under way

LONDON—ROGER FEDERER AND Rafael Nadal will stage the last chapter of their battle to finish the year as world number one when the ATP Tour Finals get under way in London on Sunday.

Federer goes into the Tour Finals as the O2 Arena top of the world rankings, but the Wimbledon champion knows second placed Nadal can still snatch first place if the Spaniard wins the prestigious end-of-year event.

The race for pole position is the latest installment of an enthralling rivalry between two of the sport's all-time greats. Although Federer and Nadal remain friendly enough off the court, the Swiss star relishes his position as tennis' pre-eminent bete and has an intention of surrendering it.

"I would be lying if I said I was just here to play well," said Federer, who kicks off his Group A campaign against Spain's Fernando Verdasco on Sunday. "Definitely I am here to win the tournament and to try to stay number one. It's obvious."

British number one Andy Murray and Juan Martin del Potro, who beat the Swiss in September's US Open final, are also in Federer's group.

Group B has Nadal, reigning Tour Finals champion Novak Djokovic, Nikolay Davydenko and Sweden's Robin Soderling, who was handed his place when Andy Roddick pulled out through injury earlier this week. AFP

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Defense, Lebron send Cavs soaring

CLEVELAND—THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS held the Philadelphia 76ers to just 14 fourth-quarter points to rally for a 97-91 win on Saturday. LeBron James keyed the home team's assault with a 32-point effort.

James added nine assists and seven rebounds while Mo Williams chipped in 18 points for a fast-finishing Cavaliers, who rallied to 75 heading into the last quarter.

"Defensively, everyone was on a string," Cleveland coach Mike Brown said. "everyone [battled] into another. It was great to see."

Philadelphia struggled on 1-of-23 shooting in the fourth quarter as the Cavaliers tightened up its defense after the Sixers had scored 20 points in the third to secure the lead.

"Credit their defense. They've a good defensive team when they want to be," Philadelphia coach Eddie Jordan said. "They're going for the gold, man."

It was the 30th win in 32 games for the Cavaliers (10-4) after losing their first two games of the season.

The Cavs are still without the injured Shaquille O'Neal, who has missed the last four games, as well as playing their fourth game in three days.

"We just screwed it up. When we're playing defense like that at a high level, it's hard to beat us," James said. dwgarve

OTHER RESULTS: Hornets 98, Nuggets 93; Bulls 88, Rockets 73; Kings 108, Jazz 98; Pistons 97, 76 Spurs 93; Grizzlies 88, Trail Blazers 85; Timberwolves 91 Spurs 90; Wizards 84 Knicks 80. AFP

LEBRON James: It's hard to beat us when our defense is at a high level. AP

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Westwood up in Race to Dubai

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES—Lee Westwood maintained his two-shoot at the Dubai World Championships after shooting a 4-under 68 Saturday in the third round.

The Englishman made six birdies to take his total to 13-under 203. England's Ross McGowan, playing in only his second full season on the European Tour, was second after a 66.

Westwood opened up a five-shot advantage over Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland. He only remaining rival for the Race to Dubai. Should he win both titles, Westwood will receive $2.75 million and become Europe's No. 1 player for the first time since 2000.

The 20-year-old McIlroy is seeking to become the youngest player since Seve Ballesteros in 1979 to be the No. 1 European player. AP

MABUHAY! Philippine Airlines president Jaime Bautista (center) awards the Laurea Cena trophy to Louis Bartolome Boniz (left) during the recent PAL Mabuhay Miles Elite Invitational Golf at Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Cavite. Nico Monasterio (right) took overall net honors.

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Swelling budget gap worries IMF mission

Team seeks assurance on deficit-reduction program

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■ **Corn output seen** growing in Q4 /B9

■ **Nenaco considers** public listing /B10

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND HAS EXPRESSED concern over the country's worsening fiscal condition, suggesting that the government should implement a program that will reflect its serious resolve to go back to deficit-reduction mode.

Representatives of the IMF came to Manila last week for the annual review of the economic conditions of the Philippines. IMF representatives met with officials from the Department of Finance, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and other economic agencies.

According to a source who attended the meetings, one of the primary issues raised by the IMF was the broaching of the government's budget deficit ceiling for the year.

The IMF earlier announced that the deficit reached P366 billion in the first 10 months, exceeding the P325-billion limit for the entire 2009. Finance officials, however, have already admitted earlier that the ceiling might actually be breached because of (1) a slowdown in disbursements and (2) revenue underperformance.

The devastation caused by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng" required the government to spend more than expected to fund rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

Budgetary, however, said that even without the calamities, the government was already unlikely to keep its budget gap within ceiling because of anemic tax collection.

The budget deficit for the 10 months to October was a result of the P935.4 billion in revenue collection and P1.19 trillion in expenditures.

Of the revenues, P632 billion was contributed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, although this was a decline from the P643 billion in the same period last year.

The BIR said less than projected tax perks were the culprit for the falling tax collection. It cited the exemption of minimum wage earners from income tax, the cut in the corporate income tax to 30 percent from 35 percent and less than great various tax privileges to businesses.

"The IMF asked what the government intended to do to get back to the

PHILIPPINE, B 2

Lopez firm plans geothermal plants

By Amy R. Remo

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORP. will put up several "greenfield" geothermal power plants to increase its capacity by another 200 megawatts—a move that could propel the company to become the world's biggest geothermal producer.

In an interview with the business, EDC president Richard B. Tantoco said the Lopez-led firm was about "70-74 MW away from being the No. 1 geothermal producer in the world, and that's very rare for a Philippine company to be able to say that."

EDC ranks second to Chevron in terms of geothermal capacity.

"We're looking at greenfield growth within our five concessions areas [awarded to] the Department of Energy and within those, we have the opportunity to grow another 200 to 220 MW," Tantoco said.

Although he did not disclose the planned investments for the five power plants, Tantoco said they may have to pour in anywhere between $1.3 million and $2.5 million to generate a megawatt of geothermal energy.

This means that for a combined 200-MW capacity, EDC has to invest as much as $500 million or about P23.5 billion (at P47 to a dollar) over the next several years.

"The power plants will have 20-, 40- or 50-MW capacity and within 36 months, some of those would already be up. We're already doing the drilling now, we're drilling the wells," he added.

Tantoco said the proposed facilities would be built within EDC's existing concession areas in Bonanza, Negros Oriental (for Palinpinon), Mt. Apo, Southern Leyte and in Leyte/Samar/Biliran (for Burauen-Alto Peak).

He added that the company

LOPEZ, B 10

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Carlito Rubiks

THIS WEEK, OUR COUNTRY HAS THE honor of hosting the East Asian Seas Congress 2009 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). This is the third such Congress organized by the Partnerships for the Environment Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) since the first one held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, six years ago. PEMSEA, an intergovernmental organization that links together 11 East Asian countries highly dependent on the seas and their coastal and marine resources, has successfully forged partnerships across countries, across sectors, and across various stakeholders over the past 15 years in the sustainable management of the rich resource base that the seas of East Asia provide. The Congress is billed as a region-wide platform for knowledge sharing, capacity building, strategic action, partnership-building, and a forum for dialogues between policymakers, environmental and natural resource managers, business communities, academics, NGOs, local governments and grassroots organizations. Having been part of all three EAS congresses so far, I can attest that this is not forum that is not a mere talk-fest, but actually brings forth tangible results on the ground—as I should say on the sea.

Archipelagic economies

As I wrote about the first EAS Congress six years ago, I made the observation that the two most performing economies among the five original Asean members (known as the Asean-5), namely the Philippines and Indonesia, are archipelagic countries. With our 7,100 islands and Indonesia's 13,600, the challenge of managing and making our respective economies has been much more daunting than it has been for our neighbors with more contiguous territories. It may be no coincidence then that these two countries have also been the worst performers among the Asean 5. Our having only about half as many islands as Indonesia does may have a bearing on how our economy had fared better than theirs in the past—though this has changed in recent years, for reasons widely attributed to governance.

The problem with being an archipelago goes well beyond the difficulty of linking physically disparate areas. We and Indonesia may have also been held back by a failure to appreciate the unique attributes and potentials of an archipelagic economy, particularly in the way our two countries have undertaken development planning. For economies whose resources are dominated by internal waters, the significance of the maritime economy ought to be substantial, and yet tends to be overlooked and neglected. Development planning, in other words, appears to have paid undue attention to terrestrial or land-based assets and economic (and even social, cultural and political) activities, to the neglect of the vast potential contributions of the maritime economy.

Maritime contributions

How important is the maritime economy in the overall economy? In a paper by Dr. Romulo Wenke and his associates at the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), the maritime sector is cited to have widespread economic impact in terms of employment, foreign exchange earnings, investments and linkages with other sectors. For instance, growth and development in the shipping industry alone will induce investments in port construction facilities and services associated with it, manufacturing of maritime-related products, and so on. The benefits would further permeate the industries downstream to industries using maritime products and services. Likewise, increase generated by the maritime sector will stimulate demand for consumer goods and services in general.

Beyond shipping and its related activities, the maritime economy also encompasses fisheries and aquaculture, recreational activities and tourism, offshore energy exploration and extraction, and a large number of other related economic services. Part of the neglect described above may be traced to inadequacy of and inadequacies in statistical data on these economic activities, which tend to be grossly incomplete and untimely. If not outright unavailable. A key challenge, then, is to develop a systematic framework for tracking the maritime economy and fully account for its contribution to gross domestic product (GDP)—something Wenke and his NSCB associates have begun to do.

Sustainable management

I have often maintained that a square kilometer of sea is likely to contain higher potential economic value than a square kilometer of undeveloped (and possibly even developed) land. For one thing, see marine biodiversity could well be richer than the diversity of life on our lands. The challenge lies in harnessing the economic value of the seas in a way that is sustainable, i.e. without depleting marine resources (e.g. overtapping coral reefs for thought pollution or outright destruction (as in dynamite fishing, for example).

I've said it before and will say it again. We need to have a clear vision for the country built on a strong recognition that our territory is composed of four-fifths water and only one-fifth land, taking full account of the strengths and requirements of an archipelagic economy. Until then, it is unlikely that we could get out of our persistent mediocre performance amid our more dynamic non-archipelagic neighbors.

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DOE eyes Subic, Batangas for oil stockpile

Venture to ensure RP petroleum security

By Aris R. Ilaya

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS LOOKING at Subic and Batangas as possible areas for the establishment of a regional petroleum stockpile to help ensure the country's oil security.

Documents from the DOE showed that the government was seeking investors for the possible venture and has identified specific areas in the two provinces.

According to the DOE, the Subic Bay Terminal—which is under the subsidiary of PTT Philippines for the domestic market—has a total capacity of 2.44 million barrels. It claimed that PTT was only using about 1.2 million barrels.

"Thus, there is still room for expansion in the area for additional storage facility that would be used for stockpiling," the documents noted.

As early as May this year, the DOE said it was in talks with other government agencies on the possible use of facilities in Subic for bioethanol storage.

Zenaida Monsada, director of the DOE's oil industry management bureau, earlier said that the agency would coordinate with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, the Bureau of Customs and of Internal Revenue to draw up the guidelines governing the use of the facilities.

The depot would be useful for oil firms given the huge volume of shared shipments expected to arrive over the next few years.

Meanwhile, Chevron Philippines Inc.'s import terminal in Batangas is another option for storage with a total capacity of 2.28 million barrels subject to negotiations with the private owners.

However, because of limited available existing capacity, the DOE said it was also encouraging investors to establish new facilities.

As of end-2008, the total storage capacity in the country has reached 16.14 million barrels. Depots accounted for 8.49 million barrels, while the refineries owned by Pilipinas Shell in Tabangao, Batangas, and Petron Corp. in Limay, Bataan, have a total capacity of 14.5 million barrels.

The country's import and export terminals in Subic and in Tabangao and San Pascual in Batangas have a total capacity of 3.52 million barrels.

Gov't to award 25 energy deals

AFTER AWARDING CLOSE TO A HUNDRED contracts over the last two months, the Department of Energy plans to give another batch of renewable energy contracts within the week to fast-track the development of the sector.

In a phone interview, Assistant Energy Secretary Mario Marasigan said the government's target was to award a minimum of 25 contracts by Nov. 30. He noted, however, that this figure was still preliminary since some of the applications were still being evaluated.

The final number of contracts to be awarded will be known only this week, he said.

Among the companies being evaluated for a service contract for wind included Bauhinia Wind Power Development Corp. with its proposed project in Aparri, Cagayan; First MariPower International Corp. for three projects in Cagayan (Claveria, Sanchez Mira, Gonzaga) and one in Pulupandan, Negros Occidental; and Southern Luzon UPC Asia Corp. for a 30-MW project in Nagsabaran, Baras/Nasugbu.

The Lopez-led Energy Development Corp. has six applications for its proposed wind power projects in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte; Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental; Camiguin; and three in Burgos del Norte (Dimasalang Island, Siargao Patrol 1, and Siargao Patrol 2).

However, a government source said that EDC has yet to complete the requirements for five of its applications.

For increases, three firms are awaiting the approval from the DOE, namely from One Power Corp., Ingcon Inc. and Hacienda Bioenergy Inc.

Amy R. Remo

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UBS lists Lopez firms as stock picks for 2010

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INVESTMENT RESEARCH arm of global liquidity-heavy Philippine stocks buoyant despite valuations that have become "less compelling" following the year-to-date rally but also warns of possible constraints to corporate earnings growth.

Arguing that liquidity may be difficult to predict, UBS said it preferred stocks with more sustainable growth drivers. Its top five stock picks for 2010 are geothermal power player Energy Development Corp., infrastructure holding firm First Philippine Holdings Corp., property developer Robinsons Land Corp. as well as banking tandem Banco de Oro Unibank and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

UBS said EDC and First Philippine Holdings could benefit from deleveraging or a reduction in liabilities as a result of the recent sale of the Lopezes' substantial stake in power retailer Manila Electric Co.

MEC was seen gaining from the passage of a real estate investment trust (REIT) law while BDO and Metrobank were seen to benefit from easing default rates.

UBS also threw possible catalysts for EDC's near-term rise: the implementation of the Renewable Energy Law that could lift earnings by 30 per cent; additional earnings from geothermal plant acquisitions that could add 15 percent to earnings, and the improving credit profile of its parent First Gen Corp. following the sale of the group's stake in Meralco. (For related story, see page B3).

UBS likes FLI on expectations that the passage of the REIT law could unlock value in the company, as 84 percent of its assets by value were believed to be "REIT-qualified."

REIT, which will be required to be listed on the PSE, will give investors the option to invest directly in the finished product and not just in the property developer. From the perspective of an investor, this is very attractive because the forthcoming REIT law requires the distribution of 90 percent of income annually, which means that investors can look forward to receiving much more from dividends declared on top of potential stock price appreciation.

As the case of SM, UBS said the bank's retail-oriented growth strategy had been successful in expanding its low-cost deposit base which now accounted for nearly half of total.

Philrealty rushes New Manila project

PHILREALTY DEVELOPER Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp. has poured in more than P1 billion to additional investments in its residential tower project Andrea North Skyline Towers project on New Manila to speed up its completion by mid-2010.

The completion of the residential tower, known as the remaining hurdle to Philrealty's exit from a court-assisted rehabilitation. Model units will be made available for viewing by mid-end 2009.

The Skyline project is the first component of the five-hectare township development proposed by The Alexandria, an earlier Philrealty project beside the Solaire Towers in Ortigas Center which previewed guest accommodations with lush greenery.

The 32-storey Andrea Skyline Tower will have 348 units, 200 of which will have view lanai. Some 150 units are occupied by owners and will be offered from P1 million to P3.5 million. (Doris C. Dumlao)

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Lease, Development, Operation and Management of the Former Mimosa Leisure Estate through a Joint Venture (the "Project")

The Clark Development Corporation (CDC) has received an Unsolicited Proposal (UP) for a joint venture project for the lease, development, operation and management of the former Mimosa Leisure Estate (the "Resort") from the Joint Venture Agreement of (MD Venture Investment Co. Ltd., Daewoong Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., and Kangwon Land Inc., (hereinafter referred to as Mimosa Joint Venture), represented by Kenwood I & D Corporation and CDC has accepted the same.

The CDC, Through its Joint Venture Selection Committee (JV-SC), is now inviting private sector participants (PSPs) to apply for eligibility and submit comparative proposals to the said UP.

The minimum eligibility requirements of the PSPs are as follows:

1. It must be any of the following, duly organized under Philippine laws or in a foreign country:
   a. sole proprietorship;
   b. partnership,
   c. corporation; or
   d. joint venture/consortium
2. It must have been engaged in the ownership, operation or management on all of the following:
   a. All-type 5-star accommodation facility with at least 150 rooms;
   b. Casino
   c. 18-hole/ 18-hole golf course.

   Aggregate engagement on all of the above projects must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project cost (minimum project cost is Php4.197 billion);
3. It must be pre-qualified by Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) to construct, operate and manage a new casino facility within the Resort; and
4. It must have the financial capability to finance the Project.

The following shall not be allowed to participate:

1. Those and/or their affiliates that have arrears with CDC and/or its affiliates; or
2. Those and/or their affiliates that have pending court cases against CDC and/or its affiliates.

Interested PSPs may participate in the Competitive Challenge by submitting their Letters of Interest to CDC and purchasing the Terms of Reference (TOR)-Volume 1 – Eligibility Documents, which outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable PSPs to participate in the Competitive Challenge and eventually be allowed to submit Technical and Financial Proposals for the JV Project once declared eligible.

Schedule of Activities

Issuance of TOR-Volume I	November 23-December 4, 2009
Pre-eligibility Conference	December 8, 2009
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	January 21, 2010

TOR-Volume I can be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P50000. One Hundred Thousand only (Php100,000.00) in the form of cash or manager's check issued by a Philippine Bank at the following address:

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Joint Venture Selection Committee Secretariat
Bldg. 2121, E. Quirino St., Clark Freeport Zone, Philippines
Tel. No. 63-45-5998000 local 102

Once declared eligible, the PSPs may purchase the TOR-Volume 2 - Tender Documents, for a non-refundable fee of P50000. Two Hundred Thousand only (Php200,000.00), which details the Technical and Financial Proposal requirements.

The CDC reserves the right to reject, at any time prior to the signing of any contract with the winning PSP, any or all proposals without incurring any liability to the affected PSPs, waive any minor defects therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the CDC.

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Gov't net borrowings rose to ₱88.47B in Oct.

By Bernie W. Dominguez

THE GOVERNMENT POSTED SOME P88.469 billion in net borrowings in October. This was more than four times the P16.78 billion recorded in the same month last year, according to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

The issuance of $1 billion or P47.084 billion in global bonds, a rare third offering within a year, pushed the government borrowing during the period higher.

Another factor was the P15.0 billion net issuance of treasury bills, with the BTr awarding some more than what was redeemed.

In October, the government borrowed a total of P70.0 billion—including P41.42 billion from foreign sources and P28.66 billion from domestic lenders.

Total government borrowings in the same months last year amounted to only P32.01 billion—P3.71 billion from abroad and P28.48 billion from local lenders.

In the same month this year, the government paid a total of P11.548 billion in debt, including P2.72 billion in foreign loans and P8.86 billion in domestic debt. This was 25-percent less than the P15.33 billion settled in the same month last year—P2.16 billion from overseas and P13.28 billion from local lenders.

For the 10 months to October, the government's net borrowings of P195.85 billion, or 95.4-percent higher than the P100.5 billion incurred a year ago.

Last week, finance officials warned that the budget deficit had reached P266.1 billion, breaching the ceiling of P500 billion for the year.

Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves said the deficit for the whole year might hit P500 billion to P600 billion as revenue agencies had been missing their targets and that the window for generating big-ticket state assets had become tighter with only five months remaining in the year.

From January to October, the government incurred P229.59 billion in new foreign loans or more than four times the P52.06 billion contracted last year.

This was mainly due to the issuance of global bonds, which reached $1.54 billion including $1.5 billion or P71.25 billion from the first offering in January and $550 million or P26.07 billion in July.

In the same period of last year, the government raised P52.06 billion in foreign currency-denominated bonds.

Also in the components is onerofia, official development assistance tapped rose by 13% percent to P75.04 billion-combined loans for programs and projects from P52.75 billion a year ago.

The government borrowed from January to October P293.37 billion from domestic lenders, down by 21.3 percent from P370.37 billion a year ago.

Pacific Plans' new owner gets dealer's license

By Doris C. Dumlao

BUSINESSMAN NOEL ONAL POÑO bought the Dachangyao out of ailing pre-need unit Pacific Plans Inc. 18 months ago, eventually obtained a license from the Securities and Exchange Commission to sell memorial-ground plans.

Onal's shareholder founders and incorporators Lim or Apec...which earlier ventured into the pressed industry by acquiring Pacific Plans for P350 million...aims to pressure new business out of selling memorial plans.

In spite of the current market climate and the state of the pressed industry, Apec remains bullish about the prospects of selling memorial pressed plans because we believe in the potential of the industry. The approval by the SEC of our dealer's license is a positive development. It shows that SEC's faith in the viability and competence of Apec to participate in the industry now," Onate said in a statement.

Barring the troubled pressed industry, Apec has announced the implementation of a 18-point action plan to turn the company around, including a new business plan and a "conservative" approach in the management of trust fund assets.

Onate declared that fresh capital had been infused into the company to ensure its continued sustainability.

"We were able to turn the company around in only 18 months. This shows our commitment as a serious player in the pressed industry," he said.

The businessman, who was an investment banker and a founder of Asian Spirit Airlines (which he sold in 1998), vowed to rebuild what ever was left of the confidence and integrity of the pressed industry. He said it's crucial for pressed companies to be transparent and accountable to its plan holders.

With respect to Apec's problematic open-ended trust-based educational plans, he said: "The rehabilitation plan for traditional plan holders is still pending in the courts and Apec has no choice but to wait and abide by the decision of the courts on this matter."

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INFOTECH

Seeing green in a world of colors

By Vanessa B. Hidalgo

HOW CAN YOU save the world? You can do it with one monitor at a time.

You can start with the newest monitor displays from AOC. Just launched were the 18.5-inch AOC e2050w WLED monitor, the 21.6-inch AOC e2250Vw and the AOC V22+Vu9ne, the world's slimmest WLED monitor.

The makers have combined innovation, style and green technology in coming out with their new monitors.

The monitors features White Light Emitting Diode (WLED), which its energy consumption will be helpful to Mother Earth.

Not only it is equipped with "green" technology," which enables the user to save power by up to 66 percent compared to conventional monitors, it also combines functionality, style and top performance.

The AOC e2050w is an 18.5-inch WLED monitor, with a 16:9 Widescreen and 720p Full Screen HD.

With the screen framed in glossy piano black or white finish with ant shell texture, this memory-free monitor aims to provide ranchers and the best multimedia experience is to consumers.

The monitor contains USB ports, as well as navigation keys that allow consumers ease and comfort in use.

With all those features, you may think that the price for such a monitor will be prohibitive. But you'll be surprised to know that this monitor only costs P6,795.

Also, the AOC e2250Vw features a bigger screen with brighter and "greener" features.

The screen meets the highest standards for monitors, claims Glen Enterprises Inc., the local distributor of AOC monitors.

This model, according to the company, also features a power saving function. This enables the user realize power savings of up to 57.14 percent when compared to the energy consumption of CRT monitors.

The 21.6-inch WLED monitor has a streamlined shell texture design and a glossy finish. It is memory-free and is equipped with a High-Definition Multimedia Interface input that connects it to a variety of multimedia players.

AOC e2250Vw also delivers exceptional image clarity and a 160-degree viewing angle to provide increased visibility. It costs only P9,395.

For those who want the ultimate in terms of features, the AOC V22+ Vu9ne is what they are looking for.

The AOC V22+ Vu9ne is where technology meets excellence. At 18.5 mm, it is considered the world's slimmest memory-free monitor, and it sure made less energy compared to others. The monitor has a luxury high gloss piano black finish with a translucent outline at its border. The base is made of hard glass shaped like a wine glass. A galvanized navigation ring is added like a cherry on top of ice cream.

With this creation, one avoids the inconvenience of purchasing additional external gears for video controllers and clutching. The V22+ Vu9ne has a built in 1.3-megapixel webcam, microphone and speakers.

In a world of bright and vivid colors, V22+ Vu9ne only sees green. It uses 100-percent recycling pulp and consumes about 29 percent less power than CCFL monitors. It also features no eco-mode. The model retails at P13,195.

With LG device, users get their 'top 40' fix

By Mike Morales

STRIPPED TO ITS BARE bones, it has none of the niceties and fancy features of other devices in its category.

So what's up with the LG GB230?

Electronics manufacturers LG's latest budget phone boasts of perhaps the model's only selling point: a built-in wireless radio that does away with pesky headsets.

Mm, if not all radio-equipped phones come with the cords: a wired earphone that serves as antenna, which combining means in the case of a listen. With the headset attached to the phone, one could also enjoy the sound coming from the speaker.

Without the headset, built-in radios wouldn't work. But that isn't the case for the GB230.

Mobile phone manufacturers have long ditched external antennas for their units, so why are apply that to built-in radios?

On top of this, users could capture favorite tunes playing on the radio using the FM record function...just make sure you have a memory card inserted because its internal storage isn't quite dependable with space for only 8 megabytes. Memory may be expanded by as much as 4 gigabytes, using micro SD cards.

The GB230 is equipped with a 2.0 megapixel camera that has a digital zoom and is 1600 x 1200 pixel maximum resolution. It's great for quick photo opportunities. Just make sure there's enough light as the camera doesn't have a flash or light to go with it.

The phone weighs about 87 grams due to the material encasing GB230. Its color: TFT 2-inch screen is protected by Shepherd.

On the top panel of GB230, which is designed as a slide phone, is the dedicated FM button that toggles the radio function. Without the headset, the sound comes out of the phone's loudspeaker.

The loudspeaker function gives out average sound depending on the reception, but with prolonged use, the quality might decrease. This can often be critical to fans of the practical side of having headsets for phones fitted with portable FM radios.

The phone may lose that the model have done away with the headset. But just think, using an earphone to listen to the radio gives users the privilege to enjoy the music on their own. Besides, it

seems impossible for users to listen to the radio or to the phone's MP3 player with the noise in the environment, say on a commute.

The GB230 is now available in LG stores and retails at about P5,000.

STAR ASSET MANAGEMENT ROPOAS, INC.
A Member of STAR Group of Companies

INVITATION TO BID

GMA & LUZON PROPERTIES

STAR ASSET MANAGEMENT ROPOAS, INC. invites all interested parties to bid the following properties on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis:

ASSET CODE	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LOT AREA (SQM)	TCT No.
SR-479	One (1) commercial Lot (with unfinished building)	#111 Aurora Blvd. cor. Mariblum St., Quezon City	1,643	9-[illegible]
SU-026	One (1) residential vacant lot	Riverside Village, Santa Rosenia, Pasig City	8,021	PT-12927
SR-465	Four (4) parcels of land	Lourdes st., Sapang Palay 2, Brgy. San Roque, Paralaque	3,000	T-176742 to T-176745
SR-014	Nine (9) parcels of contiguous lots (with improvements)	A. Mabini St., Bagbaguin, Valenzuela City and Caloocan City	168,000	V-02205 to V-02211 & C-204228
SR-071	One (1) residential lot	Lot 2580 Sitio Ada, Brgy. Mangyanan, Montalban, Rizal	3,314	T-002232
SR-134	Resort and farmland	Villa Evangelista, Bagumbayan, Bulacan, Bulacan	30,483	T-120487 to T-120492
SR9-020	Four (4) contiguous lots (with improvements)	No. 197 Burgos Ave., Poblacion, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija	1,316	T-10786, T-12915, T-10000, T-14234
SR-008	Twenty-two (22) contiguous vacant lots	Asia-Asia Road, Barangay, Bataan	80,734	T-227175 to T-227400
SR-016	One (1) residential lot (with improvements)	Lot 148 Purok 7 Brgy. Sto. Nino, Aurora, Isabela	10,482	T-002341
SR-039 to SR-042	Four (4) commercial vacant lots	Lot 3-A to D, Along NAIA Int-Way, Paman, Edsa-Ext., Laguna	31,000	T-082466 to T-082551
MPL-CAR	Three (3) mixed used parcels of land	Bo. del, National Road, Brgy. Barangay, Calauan, Laguna	15,000	T-187000 to T-187007
MPL-RPA	Seven (7) contiguous lots (with improvements)	No. 47 Pico Road, Brgy. Banlic, Calauan, Laguna	80,001	T-205150 to T-205145
SR-043	One (1) vacant lot	Lot 11, Brgy. Bambang, Cal., Laguna	21,018	T-130599
SP-018	Various industrial lots (with improvements)	Bo. Domingo Bar, Brgy. Laguna, Mabalo, Laguna	23,444	T-010660 to T-010662
SR-037	Two (2) adjoining parcels of agricultural with a single-storey bldg.	Bonifacio St. Brgy. Lalog, Ilpe City, Batangas	66,716	T-117162 to T-117163
SR-037	One (1) vacant lot	Sitio Cangrejo, Sto. Domingo, Tarlac, Tarlac	313,875	O-2267
SP-130	Seventy-seven (77) residential lots	Villa Dominia Subdivision, Batangas	88,380	77-TCTs
SR-002	Four (4) contiguous parcel of land	Governor's Drive Ext., Brgy. Tarlac, Tarlac, Tarlac	200,000	T-1094022 to T-1094025
SR-072	Five (5) contiguous lots	Cumbasa White Cove, Nasugbu, Batangas	83,110	T-72113, T-72127 to T-72130
SP-023	One (1) vacant lot (with improvements)	Along Brgy. Road, Brgy. Isabang, Quezon	8,121	T-080286

BID SCHEDULE
Start of Distribution of Bid Package and Bid Documents: November 9, 2009 (STAR offices)
Close Disposition Period: November 27, 2009
Bid Date: December 1, 2009 (STAR office)

STAR reserves the right to reject any all bids, to waive any formality therein, and to accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the company. The decision of STAR shall be final and binding.

For more information, please call or visit STAR at Ismaelmore Bldg., 3000-3002 or 8000-3012. Official Contact person is Mr. Alvino Cruz, 0917-3852828-8400000

MAKILING OFFICE: Unit 2-B, 2/F Sto. Nino Building, Pasay, 2/F St. Mauricio Makati City, Taguig City 1204 Phils.

Smartphones for the smart set

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO. Ltd. has brought into the local market its latest smart phones—the Samsung Omnia II (i8000) and Omnia190 (B7320)—which let users bring business and entertainment anywhere they go.

The all-in-one redefined Omnia II is designed for the smartphone user who demands enhanced and convenient multimedia experience, featuring Windows Mobile 6.1 Professional for opening and editing documents.

Boasting the world's largest 3.7-inch AMOLED display with crystal-clear WVGA resolution, the Omnia II offers unbeatable screen clarity even in daylight.

Complete with larger icons and a simpler structure, Omnia II's user interface was customized to provide touch-optimized usability.

Also, the innovative TouchWiz 3.0 user interface and 3D effects make multimedia and multitasking convenient and fun. Advanced Resistive Touch enables faster, more accurate touch response for a navigating experience that is user friendly.

The enhanced display and user interface make it even more pleasurable to enjoy the rich multimedia functions of the Omnia II, including its DMB (digital multimedia broadcasting) as well as video recording playback, records browser browsing as well as access to 3D games.

Users can access and download content quickly while on the move with Omnia II's HSDPA 7.2Mbps, HSUPA 7.2Mbps and Wi-Fi capabilities.

Generous memory of up to 4GB lets users store more of their favorite content for on-the-go access.

The Omnia II retails at P35,490 for the 8GB, and P32,490 for the 16GB version.

The Samsung GT-B7320/B7320i, with its compact design and ergonomic Qwerty keypad, is a portable messaging center that lets users carry their inbox with them wherever they go via responsive push e-mail support.

It also boasts of social networking capabilities like direct hook-and-My Space, as well as instant messaging support for MSN, Google Talk and Yahoo Chat.

Its 3-megapixel camera, FM radio with RDS, media player and Wi-Fi also enable users to be entertained while managing their businesses wherever they go.

The Omnia190/B7320 sells for P14,790.

The new Omnia smartphones can be updated to Windows Mobile 6.5 upon release of the new OS update.

Anchor Land 9-mo. profit up 61% to ₱308M

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY DEVELOPER Anchor Land Holdings Inc. has reported a 61-percent rise in its nine-month net profit to ₱308.6 million, over a year ago on strong sales and the recognition of revenues from three high-rise residential projects completed this year.

For the third quarter alone, net profit rose by 69 percent to ₱222.67 million, from year-ago level.

"We have surpassed last year's earnings, and this is a solid testament to the company's sustained growth and profitability since we went public two years ago," Anchor Land chairman Stephen Lee said in a statement.

"We continue to defy the downtrend in the industry, and we are quite confident that we would be able to continue our good performance as we prepare to launch more projects before the end of this year," he added.

The company, which has established a strong niche market in the ethnic Chinese community, reported a 55-percent growth in consolidated real estate sales revenue to ₱1.67 billion for the nine months than ended Sept. 30.

The group's second project, Manhattan Heights, a 30-storey condominium project in Binondo, Manila, was 92 percent completed by end-September.

Starting July this year, ALHI started realizing sales on its Edelweiss Parksuites project in Parañaque City.

Consolidated costs and expenses were higher at ₱1 billion for the nine months this year compared to ₱661.4 million in the same period last year. This was due to higher marketing and selling activities as well as the corresponding increase brought about by the recognition of the cost of real estate.

Corn output seen growing in Q4

BAS cites expansion of harvest area, rise in yield per hectare

By Rica T. Chiongbian

CORN PRODUCTION IN THE FOURTH quarter may extend year-ago brief despite recent storms and typhoons that hit many corn-producing areas in the country, according to stakeholders.

A bulletin of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) report showed that the standing corn crop for October to December 2009 points to a production gain of 0.26 percent to 1.46 million tons from 1.28 million tons in the fourth quarter last year. This, despite the damages caused by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoons "Pepeng," "Pamil" and "Santi."

Harvest area during the period is expected to expand by 0.54 percent to 667,000 hectares from 663,404,000 hectares, while yield may improve by 4.65 percent, from 3.09 tons per hectare to 3.39 tons per hectare.

The Philippine Maize Federation Inc. or Philmaize, which represents corn farmers in the country, believes that expansion in harvest areas and improved yields will boost production of this crop. White corn is a staple food in some areas, while yellow corn is the main ingredient in animal feeds.

"We are adverse our projection to corn production in the last quarter," Philmaize president Rogelio Navarro told the business to corn sector.

Farmers all over the country have just replanted corn for third quarter, he said.

They count on our focus on maximizing post-harvest losses, with the help of the government.

"We need to screw post harvest losses and guarantee quality and storage capability" Navarro said.

The BAS has projected corn production this year to reach 7.04 million metric tons, up 1.81 percent from the 2008 output of 6.91 million tons.

In the first semester, corn production reached 3.22 million tons, down 3.27 percent from 3.28 million tons a year ago.

During the period, the harvest area contracted by 0.55 percent as farmers in Western Visayas shifted to other crops, such as sasaima and pineapple in cope with the unfavorable of support for corn farmers by private financiers.

There was also some delay in the timing of the cropping in Northern Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Our harvest yield declined by 1.71 percent as crops suffered excessive rains in some parts of the country.

Production from July to September this year surpassed by 5.17 percent the production of 2.86 million tons in the same period last year.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development Southern Tagalog IV
(CALABARZON)
CORPAL M.D PALAWAN
[illegible]

INVITATION TO BID FOR PROCUREMENT OF OB-GYN/PEDIA AND DIETARY EQUIPMENT

1. The Capitol ng Palawan, through the Government of the Philippines (GOP) intends to apply the sum of **Three Million Eight Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Pesos Only (₱3,875,000.00)** Pesos being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for [illegible]. Procurement of OB-Gyn/Pedia and Dietary Equipment. Bids received in excess of this ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The Capitol ng Palawan now invites bids for Procurement of Blood Pulse OB-Gyn/Pedia and Dietary Equipment to be delivered here at Corpal M.D Palawan.

Delivery of the Goods is required **90 days** after the winning bidder's receipt of Notice to Proceed. Delivery schedule expressed as follows: within two (2) days from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of RA 9184.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from reviewing Procurement and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on **November 23, 2009 to December 8, 2009, during office hours (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)** from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **Php 3,000.00**.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) provided that bidders shall pay the fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of bids.

6. The Capitol ng Palawan will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **November 27, 2009, 10:00 a.m. at CHDP Conference Room, Km 6 Sitio Sta. Monica, Princesa City Palawan**, which shall be open to all interested parties.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **December 9, 2009, 9:00 a.m. at Capitol ng Palawan – Conference Room, Manuel Roxas, Puerto Princesa City Palawan**. Late bids shall not be accepted.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the following acceptable forms:

Form of Bid Security	Amount of Bid Security (Equal to Percentage of the ABC)
(a) Cash, cashier's/manager's check issued by a universal or commercial bank	Two percent (2%)
(b) Bank draft/guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a universal or Commercial Bank: Provided, however, that it shall be confirmed or authenticated by a universal or Commercial Bank, if issued by a foreign bank.	

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. Interested bidders may obtain further information at Bush Registration.

9. The Capitol ng Palawan reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, reserve the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to:

Jay F. Collanzo or Ariel S. Cuesta (BAC Secretariat)
Capitol ng Palawan, Km 6 Sitio Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Telefax: (048) 434-2554 Trunkline: (048) 433-8008
bac@ph.ng.gov.ph
www.dohcalabarzon.ph

(Sgd.) ELNORA B. BATUMBAKAL, MD
Chairman
Capitol ng Palawan Bids and Awards Committee

STAR ASSET MANAGEMENT ROPOAS, INC.
A Member of STAR Group of Companies

INVITATION TO BID

VISMIN PROPERTIES

STAR ASSET MANAGEMENT ROPOAS, INC. invites all interested parties to bid the following properties on **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis:**

ASSET CODE	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LOT AREA (SQM)	TCT No.
SB-514	Two (2) parcels of commercial lots	Cor Lacerna & Archbishop Reyes Sts. Poblacion, Kalibo, Aklan	1,876	T-37207 to T-37208
SU-127	Commercial lots (with building)	Quirapo Boulevard, Malina, Davao City	6,760	T-424496, T-424497 & T-424498
SU-216	Ten (10) mixed-used vacant lots	Barrio Malina-Panjl, Davao City	477,491	T-417059-28
SU-2140P	One (1) residential vacant lot	L1 BSE Gulf View Executive Homes Phase 2, Bago Aplaya, Talomo, Davao City	25,825	T-422467
MPL-UN	Three (3) vacant lots	Palanan Maker, General Santos City	206,339	T-122001 to T-122003
SR-007	Industrial Vacant lots	Maker-Bagol Road, New Bohol, Calumpang General Santos	13,644	T-87051
SU-148	Commercial lots (with improvements)	Santiago Blvd. Ilo- Lagao, Gen. Santos City	7,501	T-28892 to T-28913
SBN-007A	Five (5) contiguous parcels of lots	Barrio Siguard, Tambler, General Santos City	211,863	T-77029-34
SBN-007B	Industrial & residential vacant lots	National Road, Brgy. Tambler, General Santos City	40,000	77025 to 28
SU-176 & SU-350A	Residential vacant lots	Senatorial Executive Homes, Conel Road, Lagao, General Santos City	168,918	T-[illegible] T-[illegible]
SU-191	Five (5) parcels of vacant lots	Brgy. Canaocotan (San Isidro), Tagum City	42,809	T-136388-70

BID SCHEDULE

Start of Distribution of Bid Package and Bid Documents	November 9, 2009 (STAR office)
Due Diligence Period	November 9-27, 2009
Bid Date	December 1, 2009 (STAR office)

STAR reserves the right to reject any all bids, to waive any formality therein, and to accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the company. The decision of STAR shall be final and binding.

For more information, please visit or call STAR at telephone nos. 656-2252, 890 or 656-8212. Official Contact person is Mr. Jobong Cosio, AVP (0928-5084655)

This circular/ad is an offer under terms & conditions of consolidation in the Order's name. Interested parties are therefore advised to check the title, the physical and legal condition of the property. The Seller reserves the right to pull out any property anytime.

MANILA OFFICE: Unit 3-5, GF, One McKinley Place, 25th St. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City 1634 Phils.

Nenaco considers public listing next year

Shipping line expects to exit from rehabilitation ahead of schedule

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE COUNTRY'S FLAGSHIP SHIPPING LINE, Negros Navigation Co. (Nenaco), is now seeking listing on the exchange again on 2010, in line with its plan to raise funds and pursue an aggressive expansion program after its expected exit from corporate rehabilitation four years ahead of schedule.

Nenaco president and chief executive officer Isidro Tagud said that after three years of increasing profitability, the company was planning to grow its fleet and restore a substantial chunk of the country's shipping market.

"By the end of this year, we will have already met the Securities and Exchange Commission's requirements for listing, and that is three years of profitability," Tagud told the business in an interview.

"(An initial public offering) will depend on market conditions and, of course, the valuation of the company after it exits rehabilitation," he said. "Probably we'll see that in 2011."

Earlier this year, the company asked the Manila Regional Trial Court to terminate its rehabilitation that started in 2004, after filing for rehabilitation, the company also declared its shares from the local bourse. The rehabilitation was originally slated to end in 2013.

But Tagud said Nenaco had already repaid most of its obligations amounting to about P1 billion.

Nenaco was owned by Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) before going into corporate rehabilitation in 2004. It had to undergo rehabilitation after failing to service its obligations.

MPIC has since then divested its stake, selling further loans. Nenaco is now owned by ICLL-MI, a joint venture between Negros Holdings and Management Corp. and Kuwaiti purchase KG Investments.

The entry of the Kuwaiti firm and the equity infusion that came with it were deemed instrumental in the company's speedy recovery from its debt woes.

Tagud said the company still owed some of its suppliers about P400 million, but "those investments do not want to be repaid at a discount as we are servicing their loans properly."

"By 2011, we will have repaid all of that," he said.

As part of the rehabilitation, the company was forced to sell five of its nine ships to help repay outstanding loans. Since then, the company has been able to replace those ships with newer ones, which are more suited solely for cargo operations.

Cargo operations make up 65 percent of the company's total revenue.

Once the rehabilitation ends, Tagud said the company would be able to take out fresh loans to fund the acquisition of more vessels and state-of-the-art equipment that should enable its operations more efficient.

Nenaco earlier reported a net income of P203 million in the nine month period ending in September.

Shell seeks zero tariff on crude

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL REFINER PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM Corp. is pushing for the reduction of Most Favored Nation (MFN) tariff rates on crude from 3 percent to 0 percent.

In a position paper submitted to the Tariff Commission, Shell said failure to reduce the MFN rates for crude from non-Asean states would create an uneven playing field for the refinery and the finished product importers.

Keeping the MFN rate at 3 percent for non-Asean crude, even when the Asean Trade in Goods Agreement (Atiga) takes effect in January, would give some producers in the region an advantage and "will eventually result (in) the deterioration of the local refinery business."

Shell said this would result in a "negative tariff differential" that would make the Philippines less competitive in the global market.

While refiners would enjoy duty-free importation of crude petroleum products, local refiners would be slapped a 3 percent levy on crude.

This will discourage further investments in oil refining.

Also, the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998 requires uniform tariff treatment on imported crude and finished petroleum products, Shell said.

The uniform rates, it added, referred to MFN rates and not those provided under various free trade agreements.

"By principle, FTAs will always discriminate against products from non-FTA members. As in the case of Atiga, petroleum products from non-Asean countries will be discriminated (against), compared to those products coming from Asean countries. This is the purpose of FTAs—to promote free trade among members' countries, and there seems to be nothing illegal with such direction under current laws," Shell said.

"However, notwithstanding the nature of FTAs, the present situation brought about by Atiga effectively discriminates against refiners who import crude as its raw materials in manufacturing finished petroleum products from non-Asean countries, such as the Middle East. The discriminatory treatment may be seen as effective 'tariff distortion,' which impairs or affects national interest," it added.

Swelling budget gap . . .

From page B1

fiscal consolidation track. It cited poor tax collection and the drop in the country's tax effort," the source said. He declined to be named because he was not the designated spokesperson for the IMF meetings.

Under the original fiscal program of the government, the budget should have been balanced in 2008. However, officials said the global economic turmoil, whose ill effects on the Philippine economy became more pronounced earlier this year, prompted them to defer the goal of a balanced budget to 2013.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves reiterated that the deficit for this year could be much higher than the ceiling of P300 billion, but he said the government is mulling measures to reduce the deficit by 2013.

Meanwhile, the IMF said the monetary policy in the Philippines was appropriate. BSP officials agreed with the current stance of the BSP to keep a low interest rate environment until the global economy shows more signs of recovery.

The BSP implemented a series of policy rate cuts from December 2008 to July 2009, bringing the total reduction to 200 basis points.

The overnight borrowing and lending rates of the BSP now stand at historic lows of 4 and 6 percent, respectively.

Lopez firm plans . . .

From page B1

was prepared financially for the new projects.

The company is offering up to P12 billion worth of fixed-rate bonds and has already raised P8 billion from a peso-denominated private placement conducted earlier this year. Another P4 billion is expected to come in the form of internally-generated cash.

Tanseco said the balance sheet of EDC was healthy as it could take an additional P29 billion in loans if and when needed. (See related story on Page B2-4)

Cautious trading seen

From page B1

the Securities and Exchange Commission would compel the group of Manuel V. Pangilinan—which recently swallowed a P5.66 per share buyout offer by Henry Sy Jr. on Metrobank—to make a tender offer to the public at the same price.

"Mining is also a sector in search for because gold is very strong and at tempting new highs [in the global commodities markets]," Tanseco said.

BDO Securities said in its weekly note that the pullback seen last Friday might extend by another one or two trading days. "However, the uptrend appears is likely to be sustained, particularly as we head toward the close of [several] books," it said. (Sara C. Duterte)

LANDBANK

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BUSINESS Monday

Bank pays tribute to heroes' children

Despite the absence of elders, kids went on to excel in school

By Dianne L. Lucas

THE STORY IS A common one.

A parent (or two) is forced by circumstance to seek employment in foreign shores, and their children who are left behind soon find themselves having problems at school due to lack of guidance from their elders.

With millions of Filipinos now working overseas, this scenario is repeated in many households.

Yet there are many exceptions where children of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) end up excelling in school and beyond, despite the absence of their parents.

This is the phenomenon that the think of the Philippine Islands wants to highlight.

Last week, SPI paid tribute to Ten Outstanding Expat Pinoy Children.

Apart from academic excellence, skills in sports, music and arts, and contribution to the community—the winners also earned in the best essays answering the question, "What is my role in the development of our society, as a son/daughter of an Expat Pinoy?"

First instituted by SPI's overseas banking group in 2007, the Search for Outstanding Expat Pinoy Children aims to honor both the expectant Pinoy parents and their children.

A generation at stake

"Children and family members of Overseas Filipinos form a big part of our population," SPI's overseas banking group head Teresita H. Tan said. "Through the Search for Expat Pinoy Children, we aim to engage them to actively participate in the growth and development of our nation."

At the top of their list of prioritized steps on how to contribute to nation building, the winners stressed the importance role they intend to play in the upcoming 2010 elections.

"It is our generation at stake if we don't participate in choosing our leaders," senior Nikko

MORE B2-3

HSBC rates high on HR scorecard

Through its business platform, bank keeps industrial peace

By Chuyin Medina
Contributor

IT'S SURPRISING TO HEAR HOW Benito Claudio, a lawyer by profession, discusses with ease and confidence, sometimes even with added passion, everything that pertains to HSBC's human resources programs and plans.

"My first big job as a lawyer after passing the bar was with Dole Philippines. They were having big union problems, and I was hired as manager for labor relations to replace the one who had barely stayed a year. In less than a month in my new job, I had filed more than a hundred cases," he said.

"Things then only seemed to worsen," he added.

Dole was his real big lesson on labor relations.

"Quickly learned that dealing with difficult labor union members was not always about going to court. As the court cases were slowly progressing, I began to understand that the union members who seemed to be acting unreasonable had just legitimate issues to raise, and did not fully understand when management was erring from," he said.

By painstakingly reaching out to make the company management and labor union members understand each other's point of view, Claudio eventually closed the door on this tumultuous era in its local corporate history.

Keeping lines open

For Claudio, the whole experience only strengthened his belief that management and workers should strive to keep communication lines open and to seek ways of improving how they work together.

When he started 20 years ago in HSBC in the Philippines as senior vice president and head of human relations, he had become fully convinced that all forms of employee communications, structured learning methods, CEO road shows, even company family days as methods of bringing not just industrial peace, but also higher growth for the company.

He retained what Claudio said's HR that he even pursued a masters degree in industrial relations at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, completing the course with honors.

Global employee

At HSBC, Claudio is particularly proud of the company's HR scorecard ratings.

In 2008, for example, the HSBC Group's annual Global People Survey revealed that 94 percent of employees are proud to work for HSBC, 83 percent say that they would recommend it as a great place to work and 90 percent say that, overall, they are extremely satisfied with HSBC as a place to work.

High scores indeed for a bank which is still in the midst of an industry-wide rebuild arising from last year's collapse of several giant financial institutions.

"The new HR's role is to provide the human resource capability of an organization," Claudio declares. Thus, training interventions of the bank are closely linked with the career development programme of the bank's employees.

For example, earlier this year, at a time when the global economy was in the grip of a crisis, HSBC held its second career week.

The program highlighted the skills needed to ensure that employees would succeed in their careers.

All activities that week focused on the development of the following skills: communications, intellectual competence, creativity and positive mood practices.

Each skill had a booth where employees could discuss the different ways by which the skills could be learned and developed, utilizing bank-wide training programs and other learning initiatives and structures.

Next year, with the Group launching the HSBC Business School, Claudio says that a branch manager in the Philippines will be able to receive the same kind of training as a branch manager in Davao, the UK, Brazil, etc.

Such move only deepens the bank's commitment in improving personnel skills that will be acceptable in any part of the world.

Stretching

"In our quest for total development of the talents, we aim to provide [our players] with opportunities for skill acquisition and competency building. These programs provide the talents opportunities for stretch assignments, exposing them to areas particularly out of their comfort zones, at the same time allowing them to work closely with peers from institutions of diverse backgrounds," according to Claudio.

HSBC has also partnered with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) in the design and delivery of a continued learning program for select staff employees.

This five-day program focused on imparting leadership and strategic thinking skills in the 21st century. The program was also extended to executives of seven other world-class companies, which only contributed to the diversity of knowledge and expertise of those who attended.

The bank likewise partnered a Future Leaders Program (FLP) that groups five to 10 employees with five other peers from various partner companies to work on a real business case for an organization with an identified business need.

The business partners of the FLP pilot run in 2009 is Ground Rulings.

Finally, the HSBC's Management Trainee Program is aimed at ensuring that there is a robust pool of banking generalists in its leadership pipeline through training and career development modules.

Solid platforms

This year, the bank was nominated by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines for the Employer of the Year award on the strength of its balanced and effective approach in the economics of its vast embedded talent.

The accolades simply reflect a solid company program that genuinely responds to people's concerns. Some of the other bank-wide programs are:

- **Work Evaluation.** A web-based communication tool where employees are able to give suggestions, feedback and pose questions to the CEO.
- **Good to Great Awards.** It rewards projects designed to motivate employees to think outside the box and to keep thinking of how to improve processes, systems and policies.
- **Interest Clubs.** Employees are given the freedom to organize clubs that focus on a wide range of hobbies and interests such as photography, travel, dance, music, sports, etc.

All of the above initiatives, according to Claudio, are effective tools in ensuring that the operating business platform will always provide industrial peace while encouraging teamwork.

Another feather in JG Summit's cap

FIVE MONTHS AFTER SUN CELLULAR was recognized as Asia Pacific's Most Promising Service Provider by Frost and Sullivan, another prestigious award-giving body—the Philippine Marketing Association through the Agora Awards—hailed Sun as this year's Marketing Company of the Year.

Now on its 20th year, the Agora award is given to companies, individuals and organizations who embody marketing excellence.

"This is a testament to our enduring relevance as our unparalleled Call and Text Unlimited products and other services continue to stand out with a distinctly unique proposition in the industry today," said Sun Cellular Chief Executive Jun Lim.

In 2004, Sun Cellular pioneered the 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited in the country, which has been the flagship product of the network ever since.

One of the judges said that, although Sun Cellular is not the number one player in the local telecommunications industry, "has rocked the industry and their strategies have ultimately benefited consumers."

In his acceptance speech, Lim pointed out the company's contributions in the telco arena.

"We at Sun Cellular are truly privileged and grateful to have played a pivotal role in revolutionizing the way Filipinos communicate through their cell phones," he said.

The telco's aggressive marketing and pricing strategies, he said, have benefited the growing 2G and 3G numbers.

Lim, together with 3G Summit chief and Globe Telecom Inc. chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel, received the award last Nov. 10 in a ceremony held at the Hotel Intercontinental, Makati.

Sun Cellular's achievement is another feather in the cap of the JG Summit Group of Companies, extending a good start with the Asia's Most Admired Brand (AMA, UBP) and the Marketing Company of the Year Award, which was then bagged by Cebu Pacific the following year; both companies under JG Summit. "No other conglomerate in the country has earned such recognition," says Edith Ibarbiaz, PMA director in charge for the Agora Awards.

To date, the network boasts of over 5,000 cell sites and still on roll-out for network expansion all over the country. Sun is also seeing significant growth in its prepaid and postpaid subscriber base.

"But our work is not yet over. We intend to keep the momentum going as we aim for market dominance," Lim added.

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EDC eyes global dominance

among others. More investments can be expected for projects in the pipeline, he added.

Said to improve investment portfolio, EDC is likewise eyeing more government owned power facilities that will be put on the auction block by PSALM next year.

According to Tantoco, the company's financial standing is prepared to meet the huge investments needed to pursue these projects.

Internal cash

"Our balance sheet is so healthy we can take on so much more debt if we wanted to, but we're not at that point right now. I don't want to pull that trigger," he said.

"Today our debt to equity is about 30:40. If we were to increase that to 70:30, the balance sheet could take on an additional P20 billion in loans, but we're not going to do that ... not yet, unless the growth opportunities are there."

Even the planned acquisition of the 150-MW Bacman facility in Albay and Sorsogon, which will be auctioned off by PSALM early next year, can already be funded by EDC's internally generated cash, he said.

"So nothing in the horizon leads me to believe we need to get more," he added.

Currently, EDC is offering up to P12 billion worth of fixed rate bonds to raise funds for the refinancing of its outstanding loans. So far this year, EDC has raised P9 billion from private placement and is expecting a hefty strong cash flow from its operations of about P8 to P9 billion this year and in 2010.

Tantoco added that shareholders could expect EDC to become a low cost producer of power.

He said a portion of the geothermal power EDC would source from its Philippines and Tongonan facilities would be sold to customers through the Visayan supply aggregation auction program (VSAP).

Under the VSAA program, the Department of Energy plans to tap additional power from customers with generators who are willing to sell excess power through an auction, similar to the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market in Luzon.

Management change

The auction in Mindoro seen to be the Visayas' only option for stable electricity supply and is expected to address the growing concern over the right supply in the area.

On top of these planned projects, EDC is also currently implementing several changes at the management level, Tantoco said.

"That's one of the things we want to do—break the glass tower concept and bring the style of decision making to the power plants," Tantoco said.

Another thing Tantoco said he was adding to the current management style was the concept of "business case."

Simply put, a business case concept means that "we will not approve anything we will not give the green light unless the economics are proven to make sense, which is pretty basic," he explained.

For now, EDC is focusing most of its resources and efforts in building its local generation portfolio, even if the opportunities for growth abroad are already present. It has a small office in Indonesia, but Tantoco said this was meant to facilitate logistics there.

As for EDC has found one or two sites and is currently conducting a preliminary survey in those areas.

Is the dollar on the ropes?

MAPping THE FUTURE

Abelardo V. Cortez

THE DOLLAR IS AGAIN AT A CROSSroads. It is facing renewed pressure from emerging market currencies and the euro.

It has fallen to a 15-month low against a basket of major currencies, has been weighed down by very low US interest rates that may stay low for some time, and has soured investor jitters due to a rising US budget deficit ($465.2 billion for the first 10 months of 2009 alone!), prompting renewed calls for an alternative to the US dollar as the world's reserve currency.

Part of the woes is that 65 percent of the global reserves are in dollars, 25 percent in euros, and more than two-thirds of the world's US dollars are held outside the United States.

US Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner assured the world that the Obama administration favors a strong dollar.

But they have yet to walk the talk because, as of now, the Fed can't raise dollar interest rates and the White House can't reduce the budget deficit anytime soon.

The dollar's recent slide is causing headaches for policymakers around the world. Asian central banks, in particular, are facing the dilemma of allowing their currencies to appreciate against the dollar or continue keeping the link of their FX reserves in US dollars.

If the dollar weakens particularly against Asian currencies, it could throw a wrench at Asian export-dependent economies because their shipments, except those of China, will become expensive. China meanwhile has maintained its policy of pegging the yuan to the dollar, which essentially hurts export dependent economies of some Asian countries. An undervalued yuan or renminbi makes Chinese products cheaper abroad.

Some countries have already taken steps to moderate the rise of their currencies against the dollar. Brazil has recently imposed a 2-percent tax on foreign investment inflows to arrest the Brazilian real from further appreciating against the dollar.

Canada and Japan plan to buy more dollars to address the dollar's decline against their own currencies. Thailand has spent about $11 billion so far to prop up the US dollar.

It hasn't always been this way, but the interventions of the past few weeks indicate a definitive move to prevent the dollar from depreciating further.

As concerns for the slumping dollar resurface, gold suddenly has become another option by which a nation can diversify its reserve portfolio. India's recent move to sell dollars ($6.7 billion) for gold was considered a strong signal that the dollar composition of international reserves of many nations may be in for some major shifts.

Other central banks that have done the same move are China, Russia, Mexico and, recently, the Philippines.

Investors in US dollar-denominated assets got a scare when China's Central Bank Governor Zhou Xiaochuan proposed a gradual switch to Special Drawing Rights, the IMF's in-house unit of account, to a supersovereign currency. Recall has made dollar bulls quake in their boots.

Since China knows well its exposure to dollar risks, its pronouncement could be considered a simple risk mitigation move, a sort of soft landing approach, considering that China refuses to let the yuan rise against the US dollar.

China holds about $800 billion US treasuries and continues to buy record amounts of US government bonds, making it the biggest creditor of the US government. In short, US gets the toys, China gets the dollars.

The US dollar composition of China's foreign reserves is estimated to be as much as 70 percent of the total, which is about $2.13 trillion.

On the upside, a recent report from the 2009 managed nations of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London pointed out that "the vivid message of the financial crisis was that America continues to be of vital importance in other countries, including its putative rivals as pre-eminent powers."

The study advanced the view that "American banking system may have been paralysed until all the bankrupt, but the crunch showed the enormous resources that the United States could bring to bear to deal with the situation."

This view, however, is increasingly under threat.

The global financial market, after getting battered from pillar to post last year, is showing some vitality, the Bulwer of hope hasn't given way to fear.

In a sense, as the dollar weakens and gold price moves higher, the perception is that it's now a bear market for paper currencies and a bull market for gold.

By far all the sentient thinkers, central bankers are not giving up on the dollar. They'd rather see it as the rule of caution given the fact that their respective economies aren't out of the woods yet.

FX traders also say the dollar's reserve status is unlikely to change any time soon because, at the end of the day when it's all about risk aversion, the US dollar remains the world's safest currency at the moment ... unless this is just a big dog and pony show put up by China and the United States.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author and not the official position of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is director for trust at ATR KimEng Capital Partners Inc. and co-chair of the Capital Market Development Council. Feedback at: map@globelines.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit www.map.org.ph.)

Bank pays tribute ...

Viewpage B3

Swenson, a fourth year maritime transportation student from John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University Arevalo.

"On the count, we will return this land and lead it ourselves," said Nikko, whose father has been working as a seafarer for the past 19 years.

Motivation

The winners also highlighted the importance of education, noting that their parents went to work overseas in order to provide them with the best education possible.

Another awardee, UP Visayas Tacloban College's political science sophomore Maria Gay Calderon, noted the sacrifice her father, a seafarer in Japan, had to make in order to send her and siblings to school. This became her source of motivation.

"I had always noticed hard in my mind, so," she wrote. "I set priorities goals instead of just aiming to pass."

As part of the criteria for the Ten Outstanding Pinoy Pinoy Children, the winners also made significant contributions to their communities. Joshua Cabandong, a political science junior, helped establish a Community Red Cross Youth Council in his hometown in Bataan. Rosal Arabaca further is community service experience.

Fellow winner Jesita May Boquiren—whose father has been a seaman based in Brazil for 14 years—regularly participates in community outreach programs for the Mamamaya indigenous group living in Surigao City.

The contest is organized with the help of the local government and the Department of Energy and Natural Resources Areas to school your geology student in UP-Diliman.

Seafarer's child

David del Rosario, a Management Graduate in Business de Manila University is a scholar of the Overseas Worker's Welfare Administration (Owwa). Her father has been a seafarer based in the United Kingdom for the past 27 years. After finishing his studies, she plans to help Owwa launch programs to build healthy relationships between OFWs and their children.

According to BPI officials, the search helps promotes the value of education, evidence of excellence and national pride among OFWs and their families.

To qualify an applicant must be from 15 to 21 years old, presently enrolled, and belonging in the top ten percent of his or her class. The applicant must be an immediate relative of an OFW.

The applicants are judged by a screening committee based on their academic excellence, community contribution, and other non-academic talents or skills, such as sports, music or arts.

All applicants are required to submit an essay, whether in Filipino or English, that answers the question, "Sino ang paperline sa pagpapamilid ng isang pangarap tulong sarak ng isang Bayan Pinoy?" (What is my role in the development of our society as a new Daughter of an Expat Pinoy?).

Winners

The winners for 2009 are Bonnie Kahoot A. Alegre (DST); Armando G. Arsaeta, Jr. (John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University); Jireh Cortez Arcenal (Mapua University of Asia); Jessica Mae A. Bogañon (UP-Diliman); Joshua C. Cabandong (PSU); Alyanna N. Camarao (UST); Daryl R. Del Rosario (ADMU); Rhein Cay K. Enhoven (UP-Visayas Tacloban College); Nikko Jesse G. Serenio (John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University-Arevalo); and Leon Hoggins S. Silverio (UST).

The winners received a trophy and P50,000 in cash credited to a BPI Savings Account.

"The 2009 Ten Outstanding Expat Pinoy Children are serve as an inspiration to the Filipino youth," said BPI's Tan.

"There is a group of teenagers who have lived apart from one or both of their parents for long periods and yet, they have shown excellence in academics and service and to be model Filipino citizens."

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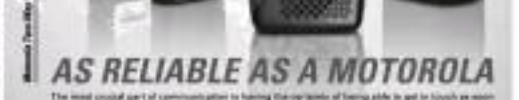

BUSINESS Monday

EDC eyes global dominance in clean energy

Chevron edges out RP company by mere 70 MW

By Arny R. Reyes

THE LOPEZ-LED ENERGY DEVELOPMENT Corp. is poised to become the world's largest producer of geothermal energy—a rare feat for any Filipino company—and it may have the government to thank for it.

EDC, formerly a state-run company, already has 33 years of experience in geothermal energy exploration and production, giving it a hefty edge over its competitors today, said Richard B. Tantoco, company president and COO.

In an interview with the business, Tantoco pointed out that this experience gives EDC a unique advantage locally, as well as a more stable platform should it pursue projects in the global renewable energy scene in the near future.

TANTOCO: @EDC

"What makes EDC great is not what it has done right, but everything. It's done wrong and learned from and persisted in the past 33 years," he said.

Tantoco said that the target of becoming a global leader in geothermal power generation has always been the goal of the company's past presidents.

"It's just that the stars were not aligned. Now it's clearer we can achieve that," he said.

Company thrust

EDC is currently the Philippines' largest producer of geothermal energy, but it is only second to Chevron globally having a marginal difference of a mere 70 megawatts (MW).

Data from the EDC showed that its installed geothermal steam field capacity stood at 7,119 MW, with its five steam fields in Leyte, Negros Oriental, Batangas, North Cotabato and Negros Occidental.

Its four geothermal power generation facilities meanwhile have an installed capacity of 744 MW. These power plants included Unified Leyte, Mindanao 1, Mindanao 2 and Northern Negros.

Recently, EDC had added to its portfolio the 112.5-MW Tongonan 1 and 192.5-MW Bilaspinan geothermal power plants, which are being rehabilitated to further maximize their capacities.

EDC, through Green Core Geothermal Inc., had won the bidding conducted by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. last September with an offer of $201 million for the two facilities.

"The general thrust (now) is obviously to grow the company. We're at an interesting point in the energy industry where there's a strong emerging preference towards clean and renewable energy," he said.

"In the energy industry, putting up a power plant is something that anyone with sufficient capital can do. But seriously, if you go back one step into the pure sciences of geoscience, reservoir engineering, and management, that's where EDC's strength lies—because we can do everything."

New wells

Although EDC has hydro and wind power projects, Tantoco said that the company's growth would primarily be driven by its geothermal projects.

Tantoco revealed that the company would carry out several capital projects, including the rehabilitation of its power plants, expansion of facilities, and drilling of new wells.

EDC/B2-3

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Manila Cathedral, San Agustin hold concerts

THE SAN AGUSTIN CHURCH, THE country's oldest church and a Unesco World Heritage Site, will once again host the San Agustin International Music Festival, Nov. 20 to 27.

Meanwhile, the Manila Cathedral-Basilica Pipe Organ Festival, now on its fourth year, will bring together the biggest church symphonic pipe organs in Southeast Asia, the Manila Cathedral-Basilica pipe organ, and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra in the Golden Jubilee Christmas Gala Concerts (tel. 527-1796, 527-9860, 527-9868, 3880859, 09/17-514303.) on Dec. 3, at 7 p.m.

Taking center stage in the San Agustin concert (tel. 527-9860-63) are Spanish organist Ana Aguado Rojo and PPO principal clarinetist Abel Sia, Jr.

According to San Agustin Museum director Fr. Pedro Quitorio, Shizuoka native Rojo is a protégé of Federico Acevedo, manager of the Organum Tarquensis, who led in the restoration of the San Agustin pipe organ.

The concert opens Nov. 20 with Rojo's rendition of rare 18th-century Spanish organ pieces, Jos. Ana's Concerto No. 3 by Stamitz, and the Philippine Madrigal Singers interpreting classical well-loved choral works.

Rojo and Sia Ana return on Nov. 26 with mostly Baroque organ and clarinet music, followed by the Abbyson's Boys Choir.

The festival draws to a close Nov. 27 with a performance of Beethoven's regal Ninth Symphony (Ode to Joy) by the PPO under Maestro Ruggero Barbieri. Featured soloists are soprano Rachelle Orendain, New York-based Filipino baritone Andrew Fernando, Italian tenor Gianluca Headini and Italian alto Simona Ferri.

PPO at Manila Cathedral

"This is a dream come true," said Monsignor Nestor Cuchi, rector of the Cathe-

MANILA/C4

SAN AGUSTIN'S 18th-century pipe organ

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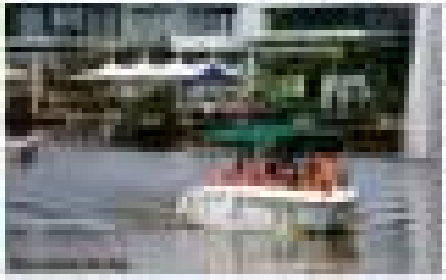
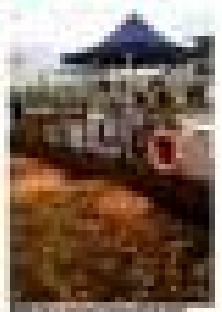
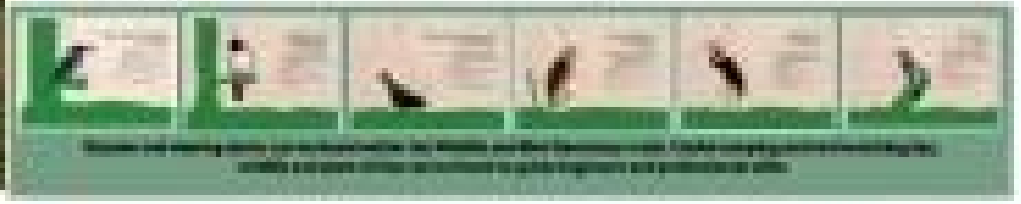






Virgie Moreno's 'Itim Asu' transforms into dance deconstruction

By Walter Ang
Contributor

CONTEMPORARY DANCE artist Myra Beltran is working with video artist Bernal Ambroy Bandoc and sound designer Teresa Barrozo to choreograph her deconstruction of Virgilio Moreno's play "The Onyx Well: Itim Asu."

Titled "Itim Asu 1719-2009," Beltran's production will "attempt to bring that important mark from the 19th to the 21st century in this contemporary language."

"We are using contemporary dance, video and sound design to convey a story of history, fiction and reality that in the dance, and myth blurs with history," she says.

"The Onyx Well: Itim Asu" won the Cultural Center of the Philippines' 1969-1970 National Humanities Play Contest. Its first staging, directed by the late Nicolas Pichay, became the inaugural performance of the CCP Little Theater ("Inaugurating Artistic Excellence").

"The drama is a play within a play and contains the story of La Loba Negra from the wife of Governor General Instrumento La, governor general in the Philippines during the Spanish colonial era) arranges her husband's mistreatment supposedly by a conspiracy of friars," says Beltran.

Despite very few historical documents, Bautista-Lim's story enjoys a rich lore of related events. Accounts of his death are gruesome and violent: his mistreatment is handed with a crucifix and his head receiving a death-blow push from a saber.

Controversies

The La Loba Negra story is from a document attributed to Fr. José Burgos, one of the three martyred priests during the Spanish colonization.

Investor collaborator Andrés Ocampo has noted that La Loba Negra is now attributed to José Waters, a forger "who created the most elaborate hoaxes of the 20th century — Philippines... (painting off) fake historical documents to librarians, scholars and collectors."

Ocampo has also noted that Felix Resurrección Hidalgo's painting, "The Assassination of Governor General Bustamante," remained hidden for a better part of the last century due to controversies. Hidalgo allegedly titled his work originally as "Iglesia contra el Estado" ("Church against the State").

Aside from Hidalgo's painting and Marmol's play, the assassination and theft of Bustamante's death has spawned other works such as an opera by Francisco Feliciano. A Sunday's dance based on Bustamante's supposed ghost by Alice Reyes and a re-one of the most performed works in the repertoire of the UCP Dance Company, now Ballet Philippines.

"This drama is about history but, also, it created its own history with its various incarnations as plays and as dance, in solving many heavyweight artists who touched on its material," says Beltran.

"I feel it is important to look back at these landmark works of art, in general — more so artists of the 21st century like to invest in how this drama shows the level of complicity with which we, as Filipinos, create meaning in history. How we readily blur fiction and reality, myth and history. I also ask what implication this has to us as contemporary artists."

Collaboration

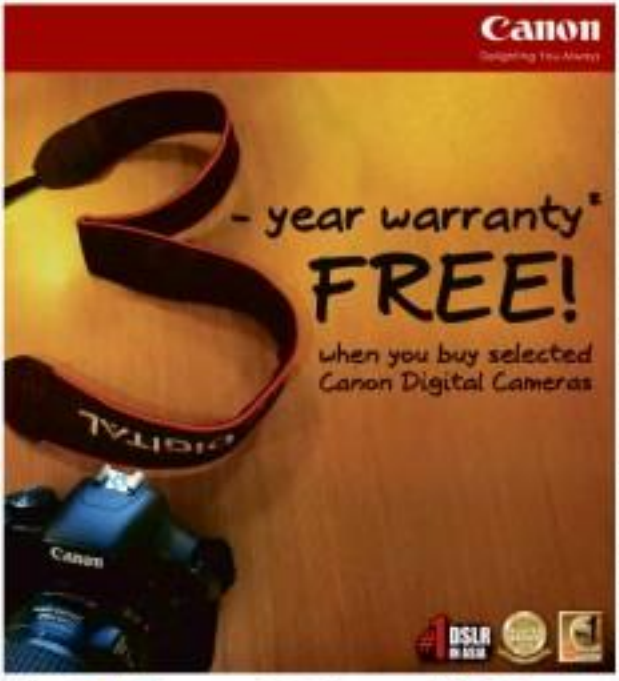
Presented by Beltran's Dance Kreatiw, "Itim Asu 1719-2009" features the University of the Philippines Dance Company with guest lead dancers Marielle Montes and Neagan Corinthio.

Sound designer Teresa Barrozo scored Bilibinto Mendoza's award-winning film "Kinatay" while video artist Bernal Ambroy Bandoc recently won the Piranesi Best Film Award at the 11th Jeonju International Film Festival 2009, South Korea, for his digital feature "Independencia."

"Given the work's historical subject matter and its objective to make audiences re-evaluate the way they perceive history, Beltran says he would like to see the production meeting January 2010.

"We're inviting organizations and schools to consider having us on their line-up of activities. The show can serve as a good preamble to issues of creating an attitude of critical thinking before entering elections. Our history is one of memories, and the present, meaning, here and now, is included. What we do today affects our future," she says.

"Itim Asu 1719-2009" is presented by Ballet Beltran's Dance Kreatiw with friends and collaborators with the support of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. It runs Nov. 26-28, 8 p.m., at Dance Kreatiw Space, 268 Mac Ave., Quezon City (tel. 0929549 9).



Manila Cathedral...

Focus page 13

dral, about the PPO performing along with the cathedral's pipe organ.

"It is a very fitting finale to close the 50th anniversary of the postwar Manila Cathedral and Pipe Organ," said Corbe.

Organists Ken Weber, an American, Armando Tolentin, and Asturian conductor Tomás Heard are featured.

The concert will also bring together top choirs into a 150-voice ensemble to sing Christmas songs.

The 150-voice choir includes the Ateneo Chorale, Coro de San Antonio, Coro Tomasino of University of Santo Tomas, De La Salle University-Chorale and, St. Paul University Manila Chorale.

Solo artists to be featured are soprano Camille Lopez Molina, bass Noisse Hung, and tenor Dominique Hontiveros, the last from Fiesco.

The concert is spearheaded by the Manila Metropolitan Cathedral-Basilica Foundation and organized by the Friends of the Manila Cathedral.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

It's 'Sweeney Todd'— so where's the tension?

Expertly sung, technically polished, thrilling in moments–but also safe and bloodless

By Gilbo Cadiz

WHAT BECOMES OF A "Sweeney Todd" in which the spotlight burns more brightly not for the titular demon barber of Fleet Street but for his sidekick, Mrs. Lovett?

That is the dilemma implicit in Repertory Philippines' production of the Stephen Sondheim musical masterpiece, otherwise agreeably staged and now running at Greenbelt 3 until Dec. 13. Nadia Gemora is in excellent voice as Sweeney; his is a proficient, assured performance of a most challenging role. It's not bad at all, really... small.

Next to the incandescent Monsha Lanchengco-Nilo as Mrs. Lovett—in what must rank as an unqualified peak in the actress' 25-year-plus career in musical theater—Gemora's measured turn feels not their urgent nor unreconciled, lacking what the British critic Michael Billington calls "that most exciting of theatrical qualities: hunger."

Weakly played

Perhaps it's not entirely Gemora's fault. The absence of any sense of malevolence transmits beyond his methodical Sweeney. He's missing, for instance, a convincing villain to rage against.

Roger (Dean's Judge Turpin, more avuncular grandpa than lecherous tyrant, is weakly played by Perry Skinner)—more, mildly a snapshot of the dark magic at the heart of "Sweeney Todd" rich in brilliant blend of terror and tenderness, malice and sweetness—Clint is swamped by Gemora, a lopsided match that defuses a melodic highlight in Sondheim's unapologetically modernist score.

Neither the faux downstairs World, wherein Robie Dalisay turns into a wobbly chap, nor Bobbie Guevara's Bauelle (with his customarily strained vocals, especially in "Ladies in Their Senses/Sticky") supply the requisite frisson of menace in their confrontations with Gemora's Sweeney.

Instead, dour exuberance of dread, of something not quite right in the fog and filth of this corner of Victorian London, comes from two unexpected sources whose sharp turns help foreshadow the unraveling of the melodramatic Marvin Gaye's superb Tobias and Liezl Bercasio's unnerving Beggar Woman.

Dog, a young actor making his professional debut in this production, lends the show a warm, heart-throbbing moment with a beautifully sung "Not While I'm Around."

Two other actors make their mark with strong voices: Francis Laurel as Anthony and Lois Mollenido as Johanna. Alas, to young lovers they remain too chemistry. And Mollenido's debut song (in coloratura numbers such as "Green Finch and Linnet Bird") are accompanied by poor diction, she is hardly intelligible.

Gripping

In media interviews, Gemora, director Michael Williams (Toby Bartolo co-directed) and company have repeatedly waxed ecumenical that "Sweeney Todd" would be nothing like the opera-worthy bloody Tim Burton movie version.

They are right—but they seem to have swung a bit too far in the opposite direction. There is a bloodless "Sweeney Todd," eagerly sung, technically polished, thrilling in moments (in fact, a good number of moments), the chorus and the FILIpromoSOLO orchestra under conductor Gerard Salonga both sound particularly scrupulous), but altogether safe and distressed—gripping mainly for the mode of the material and the ease with which they have approached it.

It's fair to cite Repertory's achievements here, no other local theater company today has the comparable skill and deep bench of musical talent to mount this juggernaut—"the Olympics of musical theater," as Gemora has called it. It's also fair to say the show needs at least more than merely gloss; the pits of true tragedy currently escape this "Sweeney."

With lines that canonize London as "a hole in the world like a great black pit... filled with people who are filled with shit," Sondheim had also asked "Sweeney Todd" to a broader social backdrop. The barber's murderous despair finds its counterpoint in the large injustice of the privileged classes oppressing the poor.

The panorama isn't evident in this "Sweeney." Michael Gaston's utilitarian set of ramps, frames and mobile platforms is good for graceful scene transitions. What is barely does, along with John Batalla's sluggish sun-sober lighting, it open up the environment or evoke the cast because of a city where "the vermin of the world inhabit here/ as morals aren't worth what a pig eats."

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It's 'Sweeney Todd'—so where's the tension?

GEMORA and Lauchengco-Yulo's scenes together are seamless.

From page D1

could get."

Nevertheless, those elements do seem of a piece with the production's studied avoidance of Grand Guignol flourishes.

Puzzling costumes

Which makes Gino Gonzales' costumes all the more puzzling. In the face of this "Sweeney's" overtly

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New book on Philippine design

TRAVEL, ARTS AND FEATURE writer Elizabeth Reyes, author of "Filipino Style" and "Tropical Living: Contemporary Dream Houses in the Philippines," and Italian-born photographer Luca Invernizzi Tettoni collaborated to come up with a book that celebrates the growing trend toward stylish globalization in interior design.

The "Tropical House: Cutting-Edge Asian Interior Design" showcases over 25 stunning houses and condos in and around Manila, which evoke a distinctive tropical modern fusion style that is gaining popularity around the world.

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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Stalking Wolverine and James Bond on Broadway

Or, how waiting for Hollywood hunks Hugh Jackman and Daniel Craig in the freezing New York rain left this author starstruck

THE AUTHOR poses beside poster of "A Steady Rain."

By Alyssa B. Herrasan
Contributor

EVERY TIME I VISIT NEW YORK, ONE OF my favorite places on earth, I make it my friend Sherissa Sui's cozy Upper East Side apartment. No, it's not on fifth Avenue, but it might as well be for all the wonderful things in the vicinity that Sui, who has lived in New York for some 15 years and who works in the magazine business, often denies me.

As a treat for her hospitality, I usually take Sherissa Broadway shows. Luckily, I read them on the cheap, Hollywood hunks Hugh Jackman and Daniel Craig—otherwise known as Wolverine and James Bond—are doing a tableau on Broadway for only 12 weeks, up to Dec. 6. No song-and-dance, just 90 minutes of no-intermission drama.

The premise was promising. In "A Steady Rain," Jackman and Craig would be playing two Chicago cops who had been friends since childhood, and who would come up against a dilemma of morals as well as emotion. Denny (Jackman) is domineering and crooked, while Joey (Craig) is the more morally upright sidekick who also happens to be in love with Denny's wife. Jackman and Craig as cops! All of gay New York will be there," harped one writer in Time Out New York.

After the play opened on Sept. 20, the reviews pretty much said the same thing: the material was no big deal, and it was like the two stars opted to take time off from Hollywood to do some "serious" stuff, so could their agents please find them some material? In his next day's review in the New York Times, Ben Brantley declared that the play was "here expanded in a small, wobbly pedestal on which our gods of the screen may stand in order to be worshipped." The ground rumination, however, was that Craig was more believable. Whatever... How could I resist an ogle, not analysis.

And that's how we ended up outside the Schoenfeld Theater on West 45th St. one Thursday night (again, non-musical shows never cheaper) in Greeley, where rumor wouldn't be unexpectedly come in the fall and spent a lot of New Yorkers. To top it off, the rain that had accompanied my flight from San Francisco had made it to Manhattan, bearing an arctic wet, icky 33-degree weather.

Here and I huddled under my umbrella until they opened the doors and let us in, and the entertainers were palpable. Happily, the Schoenfeld (where Nels and I had seen the revival of "A Chorus Line" a couple of years before) was a small theater, so a tight newscaster was still allowed you to see the actor's face.

The ushers were unusually, refreshingly professional. "Please, please turn off your cell phones," the lady in charge of our row kept repeating. She couldn't know how thought the celebrity show THEY had just reported that, a week or so earlier, Jackman had actually stopped in the middle of a monologue when a cell phone started ringing. "You want to get that?" he said. The worst part was, the moron who owned the phone just let it ring, probably too embarrassed to move, while Jackman paused for a while. "Come on, just turn it off," he repeated before picking up where he left off.

No understudies were announced before the show, and my heart leapt. Then, with a flick of a switch, the lights went on, and the two actors were seated in chairs, facing the audience on a bare set. Lymbus! Not in the dark. Hugh Jackman was absolutely large than life, and looked 10-foot-tall on stage.

Daniel Craig, meanwhile, was smaller and

(CONTINUED ON E2)

GARFIELD

By Jim Davis

A. LIPAK

By JOS. ABERIA

PUGAD BABOY

By PH. JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOKSHOTS

By ELIZABETH CHONGCO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY

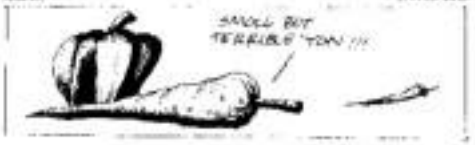
By STEVEN PABUSTAN

BABY BLUES

By JERRY SCOTT

TULOOKK

By HARM COLL



BEH

By DANIEL SHELTON

ATOMIC AND WEEDY

By VINA GARCELLANO

KIBO MACHINE

By MANDI ABERIA

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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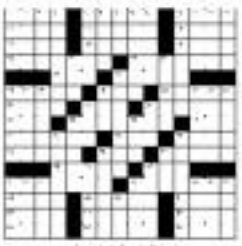

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Harris

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Difficulty level ★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

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'Ninja': Slasher of an action film

By Jordan Mar S. de Leon
Contributor

OLD-SCHOOL NINJAS IN THE new century? That is exactly what "Ninja Assassin" is all about.

Rahim (Rain) was taken from the streets and trained as a cold-blooded killer by the Ozunu clan. When the clan executes his only friend, he betrays them and is hunted down. He is feared to go into hiding.

In the same time, Mika Coretti (Naomie Harris), a Europol agent, begins investigating money connected to political murders and discovers it is linked to the mythical Ozunu clan.

The clan, upon finding out about Mika's investigation, attempts to assassinate her, but Rain rescues her.

With his investigation, he must find a way to take down the Ozunu clan with the help of Mika on as to outside his drive for revenge.

Right from the start, viewers will see that the movie is heavily anchored on its intense and extremely violent action scenes, making it one of the most gruesome and bloodiest to date. Necessarily, however, the blood (which is abundant) is purely CGI, but does not entirely take out the fun from the film.

RAIN in "Ninja Assassin"

The fast-paced action sequences are almost as jaw-with they move in real life.

The bullets and guns that we see in most action films are replaced by shurikens, five-point ninja weapons used abundantly in the film, and sliced bodies and limbs.

For most of the film, viewers will either be in awe of the slick fight scenes or overwhelmed by the geysers of blood.

There's also little to no acting in the film, save for Rain's emotional expressions, which he consistently and naturally maintains throughout.

The plot, which is mainly about a man seeking revenge, is predictable but easy to understand. Rain's character is the heart-pulsing scenes.

Possibly the coolest aspect of the film is that it provides viewers with a glimpse of the life of a ninja, including his weaponry, philosophy and formal training.

The sounds of swords clashing and shurikens sailing are highly realistic and help illuminate certain action scenes that are hard to follow. But, at the same time, it is hard to imagine heavily armed policemen being easily defeated by blade-wielding ninja killers.

Nevertheless, "Ninja Assassin" is a fun and intense film that tickles the imagination on what it's like to be a ninja living in the shadows, that it's not for the weak of heart.

"The Watch," feel at times it becomes confusing to check who's fighting whom. In a way, it contributes to the perception that villains are so fast and stealthy that it's hard to actually see how

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Stalking Wolverine and James Bond on Broadway

Front page H1

James Bond returns, minus Ian Fleming

By Raul S. De Vera

James Bond returns in Sebastian Faulks' action-heavy continuation of Ian Fleming's 1960s espionage odyssey

UNIVERSAL GENEVE
Dark Lane JEWELERS INC.

PSBank Prime Rebate: Experience more of life's "firsts"

Remember the time you received your first paycheck? Those few thousand pesos of hard-earned money gave you that rewarding feeling of financial independence.

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Some of the fondest and happiest moments in life are made up of one's "first time" experiences. But if you think you're done going through life's firsts, think again.

At PSBank, we believe that everyday is a golden opportunity to live, enjoy, and celebrate more of life's firsts. That is why we offer the PSBank Prime Rebate, the first ever loan rebate program in Philippine banking.

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"We want our customers to benefit from any excess or advance payments that they make on their loans. The PSBank Prime Rebate shortens their loan term, reduces their loan's total amount, or both. This gives them the flexibility and ease of paying off their loans in a shorter period of time or at a discounted rate over time," PSBank President Pascual III. Garcia III said.

Reward to customers

Unlike other banks where advance or excess payments on loans or credit cards are floated and does not earn any kind of rebate, PSBank customers can expect to get a rebate for any amount of advance or excess payments made on their loans.

"It is our way of rewarding them and giving more value to their hard-earned money, especially in these difficult times," said Mr. Garcia.

PSBank customers can also enjoy the "rewards" of paying loans at a shorter period of time. Unlike in other banks where people get tied up with paying huge amortizations for years, PSBank clients can afford to enjoy other things in life because they are able to pay off their loans faster.

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There's no need to go through a long and tedious process to avail of PSBank Prime Rebate. If you currently have a PSBank loan, any advance or excess payments automatically allows you to enjoy this unique feature.

You can do this by paying over-the-counter in any of PSBank's 170 branches and 288 ATMs nationwide. You can also do this through automatic debit arrangement and through PSBank Remote Banking online payment. Check payments are also accepted but rebate computation will start only upon check clearance.

If you haven't applied for a PSBank loan yet, then now's the perfect time to get one! Not only do you enjoy fast credit decision on your loan applications, friendly customer service, flexible terms and attractive rates, you also get a "reward" for paying in excess or in advance.

For more details on the PSBank Prime Rebate and how to avail of PSBank loans, please call the PSBank Customer Service Hotline at (02) 845-8888 anytime, any day, visit any of PSBank's branches nationwide, or log on to www.psbank.com.ph.

With Prime Rebate, you can pay off your loans faster or easier so you can experience more of life's firsts – like taking your first road trip on your new SUV, spending your first summer party on your new beachfront vacation house, or opening your first store.

Go ahead, get a PSBank loan with Prime Rebate today and experience life's firsts, over and over again.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Filipino social icons featured in Singapore museum

At the Asian Civilisations Museum in Singapore, the main show is 'Land of the Morning: The Philippines and Its People'

By Paul Hensen
Contributor

WHAT DOES A FILIPINO SYMBOL of democracy have in common with a mouthwatering street fare of steamed chicken, sliced cucumbers, chili-garlic sauce and ginger relish? They may seem poles apart, but they're definitely iconic enough to be featured prominently at a symbols of Asia's rich, multilayered heritage in several exhibitions ongoing in Singapore.

On view at the Asian Civilisations Museum along the banks of the idyllic Singapore River is the new exhibit that will make Filipinos proud. "Land of the Morning: The Philippines and Its People" opened last October and runs until Jan. 10.

For this show alone, an entire gallery of the 14,000 sq m museum was devoted to capture the influences that shaped Philippine culture from the precolonial era until today. It explores the identity of the Filipino

FILIPINOS P4

Crowned: Iqbal's costumes

Spanish Nobel literature candidate in Manila

SPANISH WRITER AND 2009 NOBEL Prize for literature candidate Luis Goytisolo will deliver "Creatividad y Contagiosidad" tonight at 7 at Instituto Cervantes de Manila's Salon de Actos (903 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila).

In his lecture, Goytisolo, a renowned Spanish writer and academician, will explore his works, including "Antagonia," considered among the best novels of the 20th century.

LUIS Goytisolo

Born in Barcelona in 1935 (during the Spanish civil war), Goytisolo belongs to a family of writers.

He started writing at a young age, finishing two novels at age 11.

In 1957, he published his first stories, and the following year he won the Biblioteca Breve Prize, awarded by Seix Barral, for his first novel, "Las afueras/The Outskirts."

In January 1960, he began "Antagonía," a series of four volumes he dedicated to his wife. The novel took Goytisolo 17 years to write. The trilogy consists of "Recuento" (1974); "Los Verdes de Mayo hasta el Mar" (1976); "La Cólera de Aquiles" (1977), and "Teoría del Conocimiento" (1982).

Goytisolo received the Spanish National Prize for Literature for his novel, "Señas de una paloma" (1993). He is a member of the Real Academia Española de Lengua.

Call 328-1482 or visit http://www.cervantes.es.

Farley del Rosario at 1/of

FARLEY DEL ROSARIO'S collection of recent works is on view at 1/of Gallery, 2/L, Shops at Serendra, Bonifacio Global City. Call 811.2132 for details.

"BUILT on Sales"

"FLOWER Power"

Art of our lives in Pacena's brilliant 'Static Reverb'

By Regine Stuart Santiago
Contributor

"FLOATERS"

THE NOISE WAS CRAZY AT THE opening of Jay Pacena's exhibit, "Static Reverb," at Blanc Gallery (Chelsea Tower, 107 HV de la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati; tel. 752-0822, 0920-9276436). This was in contrast to Pacena's canvases that were filled with the quietest blues, grays and whites; his short film on loop on the flat screen TV in black and white.

But maybe the contradiction is the whole point as it forces one to embrace the cognitive dissonance of Pacena's work.

Using acrylic and digital archival ink, bottom of what connects to and the spaces they traverse are represented by geometric lines and shapes in various angles, interwoven with lines that look differently sized balls. This stereotypical notion of the things that bind us is contrasted with naked limbs and bodies.

"The Banquet" is a stark representation of these dynamics, with digital images of men and women in various poses of movement. Here, the geometric shapes become weapon (held in the temple, in the nape, in the neck) with which to kill self and others. It is the blindfold (that keeps sight at bay, it can tie down, encompasses our bodies and minds, the things we hide within).

And yet there is no resignation here. The people in motion seem to be in various stages of destruction and also resistance, always in the process of movement, responding to the geometry that pervades this world.

"THE JESTER"

It is in this sense that Pacena's exhibit resonates. Violence is redefined by the silence of colors on canvas, which in turn seems to allow for the scenario of dispersion and resistance on his broader and more violent (re)formations.

"Machine Head" builds upon a naked woman's body, and the disappearance of that which she gives birth to, that which is here. Her whole head is but a mouth wrapped in a scream, also spawning a deluge of geometric shapes that spread down to her neck. Her hand reaches out to another's hand, a seeming chance at liberation. Even that which binds her, that which is still like body a created as machine, has also herself might not know how else to be, or why she must be otherwise.

But it is in the series "Disaster" that Pacena's statement about the world we inhabit reverberates. A series of eight smaller works, each in a rendering of individual silences, with human heads that are different, by engulfed and revealed by the geometries that inform our lives. Here, though, it is the eyes that are covered and uncovered, the ones that speak in static state. It is ultimately a reminder of how we are eaten up by the things that we see, the things we know of. That we are, in effect, willing victims.

In the end, what resonates in Pacena's insight into what silences lives in the midst of development, technology and the transnationalization of labor and of love. "Static Reverb" is a statement on how we are rendered ill-equipped and unprepared for the times, and how, in fact, we are all losing some silent.

And we, yes, we, have the power to resist, because we can refuse to be static.

Filipino social icons...

» From page B1

people, described as "warm, resilient and synonymous with the People Power movement."

Relying on the resurgence of the "Cory magic," one of the notable sections of the exhibit features 1986 Edsa memorabilia of President Corazon Aquino and Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino. Showcased in a Ninoy T-shirt emblazoned with the phrase "Hindi ko mag-isa" on the back; yellow ribbons pinned with "I choose" Ninoy", "Ninoy forever), Ninoy never! pins, "Cory for Peace" souvenirs and handbands; ID cards of PDP-Laban volunteers and Cory's Cry-tarlets.

More than just a display of knickknacks and icons, the People Power display aims to explore the Philippines' "democratic revolution" history. Indeed, the country has had a long record of uprisings from as far back as the Spanish colonial period. This is an invitation for introspection on where this struggle for freedom has led us today.

Roman Catholic influence

An exhibit on Philippine culture is not complete without a look at the influences of Roman Catholicism. Its display is a 19th-century cervine from San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila. It is made of silver sheets and adorned with shells, and carries the images of Mary and the infant Jesus in ivory with silver gilt, velvet gown and gold threads.

There's also an 18th-century altar from Leyte from the Ayala Museum Collection. The style is described as "tropical baroque" as it incorporates local foliage in its design and is built to withstand the humid weather.

There are many other interesting objects on display that are worth traveling to Singapore for, including a 1980s white-and-black torso with black beads and eyeshadow designed by Frances Salera for former First Lady Imelda Marcos, and a Paulin Abad lithograph titled "Filipino: A Partial Mentally Crime" (1992) from the Singapore

HOT & HAB science lab. Display of Asian spices, herbs and fruits

Art Museum collection.

For a different taste of Asian culture, you can pay a visit to the palatial National Museum of Singapore that stands majestically along Stamford Road. Reopened after a major renovation, the colonial building attracts visitors for its Lifestyle Gallery that features four separate sections devoted to food, fashion, film and photography.

Most popular in the Food Gallery exhibit takes a unique look at the history of hawker-hawker street food in Singapore. It started in the 1950s out of necessity. There was a 10:1 male-female ratio in Singapore then, and so, with no one to cook their meals, the male population was forced to eat out. The answer was hawker food—hot, comforting and cheap.

On display are various cooking implements including a vintage street food cart. Today, Asian street foods have become mainstream favorites, such as Hainanese chicken rice, satay (barbecue), fish ball (pork or fish broth), laksa (spicy noodle soup with prawns and cockles), roti (flat bread).

There's an interesting section in the Food Gallery which looks like a mad scientist laboratory filled with test-tube-type rows of smoky jars illuminated in various hues.

Solano at Botong's Up

"BLOW BIG BUBBLE"

DAGUPAN-BASED MULTI-AWARDED young artist Jojit Solano mounts his second solo exhibition, "Rodney's Brain," at Botong's Up Serendra and Antipolo.

The collection bears Solano's distinct stamp of irreverent characters and objects in settings or bizarre states, as the artist aims to show that there is a deeper meaning in the mundane.

The exhibit opens today. Botong's Up is located at G/F A. Arnaiz Mall and Libertad City, 7820 Makati Avenue corner Pascual Guerrero Street (Bonifacio Court), Makati City. Call 756-0346.

'Green Light' at Shangri-La mall

"GREEN LIGHT: THE LA SALLIAN FESTival of Art" will open Nov. 26, 6 p.m., at the Exhibit Area, L/3, Shangri-La Plaza Mall. It will run until Dec. 31.

The exhibit is being held to raise funds for De La Salle University's scholarship program in time for the school's 100th anniversary.

The exhibit will also benefit the victims of Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Typhoon "Pepeng."

The show is sponsored by Our La Salle in cooperation with Shangri-La Plaza.

The project is supported by Galerie Joaquin, Galerie Francisco, Galerie Stephanie, Galerie Raphael, and Cuenillo.

Among the works on exhibit and sale are those by National Artists Arturo Luz and Benedicto Cabrera (Bencab) and Presidential Medal of Merit awardees Juvenal Sanso and Benny Wenceslao.

Also included are works by Jose Austria, Jose Joya, Ramon Orlina, Mario Parial, Lydia Velasco, Cesar Magno, Ernesto Rubio, Aldrin Abes, Imelda Rae Acala, Armando Arabal, Manuel Baldemor, Karina Ballesteros, Amador Bongolan, Jovan Bontia, Glenn Cagandahan, Rachael Carreon, Daniel de la Cruz, Joselito Duremdes, Jomar Delbaba, Henry Dilloras, Romeo Quinto and Edwin Tres Reyes.

"TAGBO," by Federico Aguilar Alcuaz

Young artists at Purple Arts

THE GROUP EXHIBIT "JEWELS AS They Are" will open Nov. 27, 6:30 p.m., at the Purple Arts Gallery (4/L Greenbelt 1 Bldg A).

Exhibiting artists are Lee Bijo, Porter Go, Daren Villanueva, Arlan Manansala, Mayo-Ani Medina-Gerona and Jaguada Bancoid Mendoza.

The exhibit explores why people collect jewels.

Call 621-8508 or e-mail MGB.rina@gmail.com.

"MANKONG," by Lee Puzo

Group exhibition
from Montpernil

'For Starters,' engaging fiction by Ricardo Suarez Soler

"FOR STARTERS," BY RICARDO Suarez Soler, 72, is a book of short stories about poverty, corruption and infidelity.

Soler wrote his last book 30 years ago, and that he has come up with a book of fiction has surprised other writers.

"At the Tuesday Club, where he is an active member, Soler tells the most jokes and nobody can outdo him in that regard," Leo Gaspi writes in his Manila Bulletin column.

"For this reason, some members who don't know him all that well think he is just an easy-going man who has no deep or serious thoughts on his mind. But to those who know him, like the late Mariano Ildefonso, who was his good friend and

QUITE a serious intellectual

partner, he is a quite serious individual and, indeed, an intellectual.

"So an introduction to one of his books, Max described the real Ricardo Soler' as a man who 'hides too often behind a facade of gentle cynicism, a man believes, half ashamed of the fact, searching for the stars.' Max also referred to him without flinching as a 'Renaissance man.'"

National Artist for Literature F. Sionil José says Soler "is flowering with such scintillating sense and score" and "unfolds his raw knowledge of psychology like a stethoscope, which transmits to us the inner beating of the human heart. In the handful of short stories—his first collection...he unravels insights into the Filipino condition."

National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera says: "We are certainly the richer after our contact with the densely humanistic terrain of his fiction."

Greg Bellamore says: "Soler's system is comprised of fascinating prose pieces with wide-ranging colors and textured with a realistic atmospheric, darkly fantasy structure and a humane terrain of social consciousness."

Jaime Caseñas, literary editor of the Philippine Free Press, says Soler's "language and his style reveal the vein that threads through every Filipino story and brings together Filipino lives. Humor, wonder, duress, poignancy and truth all so effortlessly follow. Thus the stories easily pierce the emotional eye and engage the willing heart."

"For Starters" is available at National Book Store, Powerbooks and Solidaridad Bookshop.

Filipino social...

From page F1

It's actually a showcase of the spines, coathangers and brain tissues in Asian culture. Visitors can smell the lechon pigs, screenplay (pandesal), and artists, outre clubs.

Fashion Gallery

The Fashion Gallery is a look at the evolution of Singaporean women's clothing. As women became more involved in society, the workplace and political affairs, the loose-fitting clothes gave way to more figure-hugging styles inspired by Parisian haute couture. One of the interesting displays is a vintage Method-inspired dress imported with the name Campbell's soup logo—a shift from conservatism to consumerism in Singapore.

Take a peek inside the Photography Gallery and see vintage photographs of Singaporean families. There's wedding crystal about three pictures. There's one that shows a polygamous marriage in the early 1900s. Concubine children with their Chinese amahs, and mixed or cross-cultural marriages which were taboo a couple years.

In a way, these exhibitions are reflections of how far Asian society has evolved, and many more aspirations that have yet to be achieved.

Cesar Montano, artist

CESAR Montano with Portia Cuesta, Al Perez, Tam Acuña, Mary Divine Acuña, Sonora Cruz and Sunshine Cruz

ACTOR CESAR MONTANO HELD HIS first solo art exhibit at the Artist Space (2/F Ilaw Sing, Ayala Museum, Greenbelt Park, Makati City).

Show was held Nov. 19.

During the opening on Nov. 14, guests of honor were Jaime Zobel de Ayala and Ros Zobel.

JAIME Zobel de Ayala, Ros Zobel de Ayala, Sunshine Cruz Montano and the artist

WITH John Deguzman

WITH Benn Chong

A personal Negros Oriental

By Ian Rosales Casocot
Cebu Basics

THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHING places can be tricky. Given the ubiquity of the camera in these digital times, a brave photographer can always be reduced to remembering the generic...the usual hi-fruit shots of mountains, sunsets, waves crossing with sillhouettes.

The results may be ruthlessly unsettling, like in the relentless democracy of images are find-somehow, sounds in, the true artist must have something to say, and to say it in visual composition that is striking.

All good photography is about the personal prism. Which is why there is much to rejoice—and also perhaps to shrug off...over the photography exhibit at Ateliers in Ayala Negros Art Gallery in Dumaguete City.

The exhibit "My Negros Oriental" gathers for the first time 11 photographers from all over the province, each tasked to capture what for them is a very personal vision of Negros Oriental.

There are unique strains of Negros not in the eye of the dick-happy beholder. The personal focus is why much of the collection succeeds, because the exhibit, indeed, manages to transcend, at least for the most part, the commonplace.

Some of the names...Greg Morales, Charlie Arbolado, Nito Zuvirey, Phil Cabanayan, Alma Zoom Alcoran, Edh Dondo, Luigi Anton Barrameda...extend the unasked task their brilliantly composed stories that defy the routine assignments.

Some, like Gerard de la Cerna, Benny Nuñez and Randell Bandolin, still feel restrained from going beyond the lens. What we mostly get are generic beauty shots, the "postcard factory for travelers tourism."

Tender portraits

Of the bunch, Aquin Taylor has perhaps the most interestingly human story in the exhibition.

"DAWN," by Jaime Taylor

His photos are tender portraits of folk doing everyday stuff in an ordinary looming community in Marao town. But he manages to capture their moments without the slightest hint of pretension, and somehow always with a touch of wonder.

That he can render them in arresting color or perfectly toned black and white gives his photography a dimension that brings his stock photo-journalism to the level of art.

Then there is Nobel Tan's shots of the city's Silliman Beach at sunset—dramatic and beautifully rendered in boundaries sans tattoo and contrast, but also, at no perfectly dull in its sentimentality. Because how many photographs of generic beautiful sunsets are there in the world?

Good thing that he has saving grace in "Child's Play," an eloquent shot of distant memories, one poetry that plays on color tone and shadows. Here two children only seen in silhouette rush to the sea, while the sea itself rather in opposite direction, to the shores, its energy seen as the surf that tumbles in the failing light in search of land.

John Stevenson, an American, has a hint of ironic detachment, always ready to see Dumaguete through eyes we are not familiar, or comfortable, with.

His portraits perspective gives us something new to think about. In "52," for example, fourteen take apart the infamously hideous, remote statues of the Rizalian state gracing Dumaguete's Rizal Boulevard...by composing a story that has a mix of tones, from the hidden by their habits, each apart into isolation, a facepaint in the middle separating them.

Age of Photoshop

In a sense, the exhibit also becomes a showcase of personal philosophy with regard to photography in the age of Photoshop. Some are identities to their liability to the "real," and what is captured by the camera, unenhanced by any process, becomes sacred testament.

Other photographers, however, are not documentarians but painters, using pixels as their paintbrushes. This is what you see in the photographs of Cleo Villason.

His tendency toward hyper-sharpening of images works because there is no pretense at realism. Aspiring toward painting, when it works, it is great. When it doesn't, it is merely pretentious.

But the results this time are brilliant. This happens when the elements...the painstaking layers of images, the relentless adjustments of hue, contrast, hues and blend—come together into a haunting, soluble and unwinding finish.

You do not see everyday landscape done this way. What is that fire in the distance, the Cathedral of St. Alexandria in "Escape from Iloilo"? What is that fire in the clouds—or is it the cosmos in a tone of red...over old Silliman Hall in "Centennial Hall"?

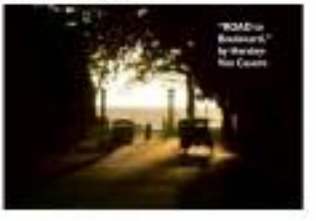
Perhaps it all comes down, eventually, to the possession of the eye. Interviewer Casocot has it in spades. His pictures are all about the finest textures mixed in ever-refreshing hue that never before does not overpower. And there he adds one more detail to a picture by inserting something odd.

The photograph that strikes me the most is his "Road to Boulevard," a study of a street landscape that says a drama of shadows. In the light, we see the boulevards' two antique lamps of the afternoon and also a glimpse of falcon trees. In the middle of it all, we see some people walking and some tricycles plying the early morning street.

All of these are framed elegantly to seize like shadows, like a film itself. The haunting result captures Dumaguete in all its terrible, romantic beauty.

My fingers, indeed. What is a good picture of beauty except a mirror of how our hearts are lit?

"CENTENNIAL Hall," by Cleo Villason



Editor Ernesto G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

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RP film named best in Cairo fest

By Rayard San Diego Jr.

FILIPINO FILMMAKER Alvin Yapan's "Ang Panggagahasa Kay Dr (The Rapist of Dr)" topped the Digital Competition section of the 32nd Cairo International Film Festival held from Nov. 10-20.

The Filipino film won the Golden Award which comes with a cash prize of $10,000 from one of the top-ranked festivals in the world.

The silver prize went to films from India ("First Time") and France ("Exile in Paris"). The Golden Pyramid in the main section went to a film from Finland ("Letters to Helen Javoli").

A Special Jury Prize co-winner in this year's Cinemadays, "Hi" was cited by Cairo jurors "for its sensitive portrayal of a woman (Dina Adlanawi) caught between an abusive husband and an innocent lover... [and for] illuminating our understanding of human relationships."

The festival's website noted that the film "stood out for its unflinching realism and strong performances that brought alive the complexity of a woman's quest for fulfillment."

Other Cinemadays 2009 co-winners here in festivals like Venice ("Brighteration"), Lyon ("Sunglasses") and Pusan ("Sang").

The last time the Philippines won in Cairo was in 2001, when Joel Lamangan's "The Five Cinderellas (no Sorry)" brought home the Best Picture and Best Actress (Joe Nolasco) trophies in the fest's main competition.

Yapan previously won acclaim for his earlier efforts, the short film "Boljo" in 2007 and the feature film "Shaking Pamela" (which he co-directed with Paul Sta. Ana) in 2008. "Hi" is his first solo feature film.

Before leaving for Cairo, Yapan told the Inquirer: "Getting to Cairo is already a big deal for me. Winning is the icing on the cake."

Gina: How did 'Buzz' access my FB account?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I CHANCED UPON Angel Locsin, Cristine Reyes, Anne Curtis, Sam Milby and their friends having a sighting last Sunday at Happy's Makati. Sam and Jessy arrived and left together. Could they be working on a reconciliation or are they just rebuilding their friendship?

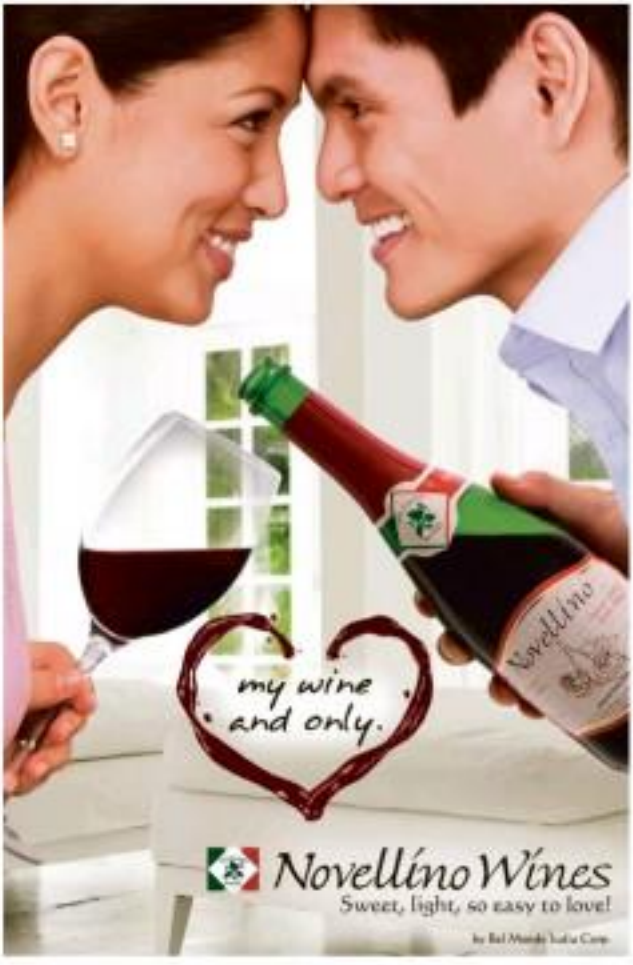
The spark in their eyes said what words couldn't. "Sam and I are hanging out again," Jessy admitted. "Let's see where things go."

Anne and Angel were in a festive mood because their "Shop & Share" online site has earned $10,000 for "Dolly" victims. Chelsea is back in high spirits after her harrowing "Dolly" experience.

After being ready for their close-ups, the Bayanihan stars took time out to live it up!

• • •

It's not a remote possibility that Jo Anne Quintas (Jose) and Joey Marquez are getting too close for comfort. Joey's track record with women speaks for itself. Some of his ex-ex are models/beauty queens like Jessa. It's just sad that Jess and Beatrice Primerose parted ways. They were so well-suited for each other. Dom and Jessa had spoken transparently on mending World. While in high spirits after her fantastic performance in "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank," Eugene Domingo was spotted in a tête-à-tête with Ricky Davao at Cibo. Is Eugene ready to be a mom? Or is Ricky ready to be a dad?



Gina: How did 'Buzz' . . .

From page 4E

GMA Major

World's huge club parties-sweet, romantic love Jesse told me once that he's having a hard time dealing with Jose's mood swings caused by the date pills she was taking. He longer to be mood for love?

* * *

Miss Hope wonders how "The Buzz" as around her Facebook account values, she says, she has no FB issues from the show. She

'I think that was against the rules of the site'

was shocked to see her FB page and status updates shown on national television. Her status update read: "If I were Jinky Pacquiao, I would never give up Manny. Kikita Bautista is not worth it at all."

"It' ba duper bay pandam mares sila on admit?" she said. "My FB is for close friends and family only. It's a sound unbranding site but it has regulations. I think it's against rules to use something from a member's site without informing the person."

Crazy things happen when one joins become an open facebook.

* * *

A funny Internet joke is circulating: "Kaya raindo ni Pinoy ang e Goths kasi pa maganoti ayos ng pangkorero sa itaas, Head & Shoulders!" Everything about the punch clumsymakes a perfect punch line.

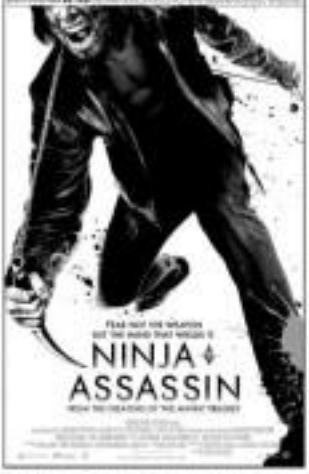
* * *

GMA's pioneering homegrown reality series is season, "Starstruck," is back with its biggest season ever (Sunday night's "Pinoy Pinterde" and Saturday after "Kap's Amazing Stories"). The 5th season boasts of an ever-widening number of dreamers who auditioned not just locally but also in the United States, Japan, Singapore and the Middle East. It is hosted by Dennis Trillo, Carlo Aquino and Sarah Geronimo, and each segment hosts Mark Herras, Lj Reyes, Ayo Bhakon and Paolo Ballesteros.

To provide updates on the artists hopefuls, "Shout Out The Starstruck Stalkers" will start airing today (Only before "Family Feud"), giving viewers behind-the-scenes coverage with all the drama in the life of each aspirant. Twinkle, twinkle, BIG star to be!

E-mail www.bgbalsong@balitaphoo.com

OPENS NOVEMBER 26



RP film named . . .

From page 01

ning support and approval from the international scene is very important consider, ing the gloomy forecast for the future of our film industry."

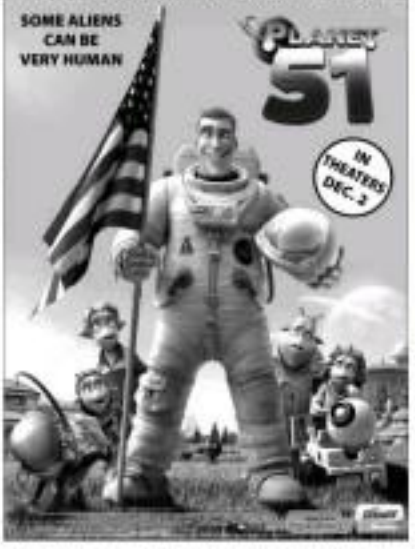
He called the prospect of winning "a grace from God."

"It's a great time to make films now," he said. "Few parks are being discovered. New methods are being explored."

For "Te," he used an RM 240 HD camera. "Since I am aiming for a pure narrative, I wanted the film quality in terms of the aesthetics, to ever wound the classical, almost mainstream. I wanted to trick the audience into believing that what they're seeing is conventional when it's really not."

Prior to Cairo, "Te" was screened in New Delhi and Chicago both. Next stop for "Te" is the Rotterdam film where it will be competing against new movie.

E-mail: bgsentcoding@hotmail.com



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GALLERIA

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	6 2012
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	7 Indieline: LATAK
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	8 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	9 2012
5 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	10 2012

ERMITA

1 2012 / TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	5 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	6 2012 7 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

METRO EAST

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	5 2012
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	6 2012
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	7 2012
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	8 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

NOVALICHES — PIONEER

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	1 2012
2 2012	2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 ANG TANGING PAMILYA	3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

STA. ROSA — LIPA

1 2012	1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA	2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	3 2012
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

BASMARINAS — IMUS

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	1 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA	2 2012
3 2012	3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 THE CANNERS	4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

STARMILLS

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	4 2012
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA	5 2012
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON / 2012

ANGELES — TACLOBAN

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 ANG TANGING PAMILYA	3 2012
4 2012	

BACOLOD — ILOILO

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 2012	4 2012
5 2012	5 2012
6 ANG TANGING PAMILYA	6 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

GEN. SANTOS (NOW OPEN!)

1 2012	3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

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Not 'just things' —Books lost in the flood / H4

Champion readers and top teachers / H6

LEARNING

Editor Cleda Bunal Formoso

Watch out for the announcement of the Paper Bag Contest and the 2009 IE Lesson Plan winners in the coming weeks

In memoriam: Gabriel Canizares

PAEBIEL INSELUI HAS A reputation for being one of the most difficult towns to serve in the southern Philippines. But Gabriel "Beng" Canizares did not seem to mind.

He was a teacher for 12 years there before he was recently named acting principal of Siao-agao Primary School.

"Beng was always restless and full of ideas. He attended community activities, taught dance to the students, and supervised school intramurals programs, while still finding time to see friends," said a colleague.

The eldest of eight children of Manuel and Felicisima Canizares, Beng was born on June 10, 1972, in San Raymundo, Jolo, Sulu.

He studied at the Talipao Central School and the HBGAE, then took up Education at the Notre Dame of Jolo College. All he needed was his diploma and he would have earned his master's degree in education from Sulu State College.

Canizares was among the young educators in the area who took advantage of teacher training programs extended by foundations and international aid agencies.

According to one such agency, Canizares and his team were getting ready to mentor other teachers in the area in science, English and math.

In July, however, Canizares started to get death threats. For his safety, he was allowed to report in the division office in Jolo.

"But Beng was truly an educator. He decided to report again to Siao-agao," said Sulu education supervisor Hadji Kalbarun Casanda.

On Dec. 18, Canizares was singled out from among the passengers of a public vehicle and taken by suspected Abu Sayyaf elements. In exchange for his freedom, the abductors allegedly wanted P72 million.

Canizares' severed head was recovered near the Jolo town hall on Sen. Wasbir his family failed to raise the amount.

At his interment three days later, fellow teachers tried not to weep because they knew Beng would have hated that gloom.

But the tears could not be helped because Canizares was well loved, because his passing was a great loss to the students and their parents, as well as to his colleagues who considered him a leader, and because no one deserved to die so he did.

Casanda said Canizares' only fault was that he had "committed his life to educating Tausug kids."

"He was the kind of person who would tell you like you're good and beautiful. He left an open for sadness," said a Siao-agao teacher who wanted to be identified only as Bim. "There was never a dull moment with Beng around."

She said Canizares always brightened the spirits of his colleagues especially when they were feeling low, like when their salaries were delayed.

"He made them listen and made us laugh. He joked that our funerals could endure another day of blankets and nonbiz (steamed sinuyo and fried bony fish)," Bim said.

Prof. Octavio Dimapo of the Mindanao State University and Catabato represented "Muslim-Christian unity in diversity" Dimapo herself was kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf last year but was released unharmed.

He said Beng was a Christian teacher who tried to live modest way to call attention to Sulu's educational needs.

He said Canizares' death should open the eyes of authorities and make them realize teachers were "very vulnerable."

"My friend Gerald Gregor in make sure his students get the education they deserved," said Dina.

—Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Gabriel Canizares
1972-2009

Is this any way to treat our teachers?

GABRIEL CANIZARES WAS IN no manner the first teacher in the Philippines to be abducted and beheaded.

On May 6, 2000, the headless bodies of teachers Deanie Ubas and Helen Enriquez of Sinangkapan High School and Sinangkapan Elementary School, respectively, were found in Basilan. They were reportedly beheaded as the Abu Sayyaf's "birthday gift" to then President Joseph Estrada.

Kidnapping teachers for ransom doesn't make sense. Everybody knows teachers barely make enough to take them over until the next paycheck. How can their families be expected to afford the ransom?

Gabriel Canizares was the family's breadwinner. It was impossible for his parents and siblings to raise the P2 million demanded by his abductors, even if they begged, stole and borrowed.

In a decent society, civilians are not attacked purposely even in times of war. Teachers are civilians. On top of that, they are civilians with a mission, which is to guide the young through the maze that leads to a stock of values that human beings need to get along with one another, to a chest of stories, art, music and other resources that make life worth the song and, if he is a good teacher, to a well of wisdom.

Don't terrorists have children who need teachers? Or have they stopped sending their young to school because they think all their children need is hands on training at home in the gun or sword?

The following list, which goes back to the year 2000 only, reveals that teachers in Mindanao have been an easy prey, and the following list goes only up to year 2000. Read it and weep.

2000: 37 reported victims

March 8—Teachers Leticia Cate and Mayleah (Beverly) Apolinario were abducted by lost gunmen. They were rescued March 23.

March 14—Teacher Cecille Tormazo was abducted outside a public elementary school in Kabuntalan, Maguindanao, put laboriously on a motor boat. Another teacher was also seized but managed to escape, according to police. Tormazo was released on March 17.

March 15—Unidentified men in Datu Odin Sinsuat town in Maguindanao took Minsari Sipe, an instructor of the Notre Dame City Polytechnic College.

March 20-22—Twelve women abducted from four schools in Basilan.

- Behind the Tumahubong Two Elementary School were school supervisor Joselito Ibrahim and teachers Norhaida Kalah, Saida Sahirin, Rita Akmad, Macaria Mandan, Abubakar Dandi, Sahiyan Salipe and Halna Mandimla.
- Abducted at the Sinangkapan Elementary School in Isabela town were 21 pupils and teachers Nelson Enriquez, Linda Alba, Teresita Acadenia, Erlinda Manuel, Adilna Lucenio and Albert Sahan.
- At the Sinangkapan National High School, the infants seized teachers Ruben Demorales, Rodolfo Irong and Dante Ulan.
- They also abducted at the Claret High School Fr. Rod Galindo, school director and parish priest; Reynaldo Rubio, principal; and teachers Walter Udoro, Ronabel Mendoza and Marlene Pante.

April 19—Basilio Llian and Nelson Enriquez were beheaded and found on the Abu Sayyaf's "birthday gift" to President Joseph Estrada. Their headless bodies were found on May 6.

(CONTINUED ON A2)

Letter from a principal

A prayer that justice will prevail

THE BEHEADING OF OUR fellow principal in Jolo makes me angry and sad.

Mr. Gabriel Canizares was a public servant, an educator who dedicated his life to educating the youth in the hinterlands of Mindanao.

It was an ironic fate to walk the streets and ride the Ambel Ambel just to get to his place of work, all the time fearing being caught in a crossfire (as rebels and military troops continue to fight), longing for the sacrifice!

Did it not occur to his abductors that Mr. Canizares was educating the Muslim children in the area?

We principals are poorly paid. Our salary is just enough to live simply. How can we pay a P2-million ransom when we do not even have enough left from our salary to save?

I read in the news reports that Gabriel Canizares was the late non-Muslim teacher in the school where he was acting head teacher. What happened to him gives us the impression that some of our Muslim brothers do not want peace. They refuse to live one with us, Christians, and peace talks will get us nowhere. Our government is so helpless in solving cases like Gabriel Canizares'.

All I can offer for Beng Canizares is my fervent prayer that justice will prevail, that his kidnappers will suffer the consequences of their act. He who lives by the sword will perish by the sword.

Teresita E. Arriola
Principal IV, Pendic Elementary School
President, Makati Public Elementary School Principals Association

CLASS ACT

LEA OF KNOWLEDGE

Thousands of high-quality reference books are netted by student volunteers at the University of Mindanao-Matina in Davao City. The books were distributed to 11 schools in the province of North Cotabato, and benefited some 11,600 students. The book distribution was conducted by the United States Agency for International Development's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) program through its Education Awareness Support Effort (EASE). GEM, through EASE, matches funds raised by parent-teacher associations for specific projects in partner schools, such as the establishment of mini-libraries, computer laboratories and multimedia centers. EASE educational resulting grants have been awarded so far to about 100 schools in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. GEM is implemented under the oversight of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco).

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

Calabarzon College Scholarship search launched

FIRST ASIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Humanities launched the Calabarzons College Scholarship (CCSI) for SY 2010-2011. Now on its eighth year, this search for new college scholars is offering 200 scholarship grants to deserving graduating public and private high school students in the Calabarzon region. A total of 116 schools are expected to participate in the search.

The following scholarship grants named after the heroes of Calabarzon will be awarded: the Jose Rizal Scholarship which includes 100 percent discount on tuition and miscellaneous fees, a stipend of P2,500 per month and a book allowance of P5,000 per semester; the Apolinario Mabini Scholarship which includes 100 percent discount on tuition and miscellaneous fees, a stipend of P1,000 per month and a book allowance of P5,000 per semester; the Emilio Aguinaldo Scholarship which includes 100 percent discount on tuition and miscellaneous fees; the Manuel Quezon Scholarship which includes 100 percent discount on tuition fee and 50 percent discount on miscellaneous fees, and the Full Tuition scholarship which includes 100 percent discount on tuition fee.

Application for the scholarship program is based on a competitive application process consisting of a written examination and interview. It is open to the top twenty students of the graduating class of each participating school.

Interested parties may contact the First Asia Institute of Technology's admissions office at tel nos. (043)776-6507 or e-mail inquiries@firstasia.edu.ph

Britesparks International School quantum leaps to the future

BRITESPARKS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, located at IDC Building E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue in Libis, Quezon City took a big step towards being a premier international school dedicated to molding future leaders and achievers in a global society with its recent elevation to Authorized International Baccalaureate Teaching Body Council of International Schools (CIS). This mile was in the request of Jeffrey Tan, managing director, in his desire to bring to the Philippines quality CIS membership/ **affordable education with the personal touch** (individualized education).

The CIS visit took place Nov. 4, with Geoffrey Percy inspecting the school. During his visit he talked with board members, leadership team, teachers, and parents. He also inspected the facilities and documents. The CIS inspects not only access to local and international curriculum but also the overall school management, finance, and governance.

Britesparks is a pilot school offering International Baccalaureate's Primary Years Programme (PYP), the world's highest standard in international education, and pioneering an entrepreneurship subject starting preschool to high school. Britesparks is **the first and only school that offers** Entrepreneur subject in the curriculum to foster entrepreneurial skills in young learners. The students are exposed to different types of businesses, learn about sales and marketing, handling finances, business management, etc.

Graduates of Britesparks will be given the option to enroll in Centro Escolar University's Entrepreneurship Program, which is the first and only school in the country that offers a degree in Entrepreneurship. Britesparks has ongoing enrollment so go and give your child an international education with a personal touch. For more information, you can visit Britesparks International School's website www.britesparks.edu.ph or call 633-0981 or 410-8681 (2747).

Centro Escolar University also offers scholarships (optional for grade 12), for high school students who are in the special entrepreneur program. They can continue to study for another year to earn the certification. This can help them be more competent in their chosen field of employment.

Lastly, Britesparks is not only looking towards continuing their great education for preschool and grade school but also in school year 2010-2011, they will be opening their middle and high school programs. Britesparks has ongoing enrollment so go and give your child an international education with a personal touch. For more information, you can visit Britesparks International School's website www.britesparks.edu.ph or call 633-0981 or 410-8681 (2747).

UP Manila Chorale presents 'Christmas shines!'

THE UP MANILA CHORALE, THE MOST AWARDED CHORAL GROUP of the University of the Philippines Manila, is presenting this December, the show "Christmas Shines!" as a benefit concert for the patients of the PGH pediatric wards, especially the children with hydrocephalus. The show is slated for Dec. 6, 7 p.m., at the Philam Life Auditorium. "Christmas Shines!" will feature well-loved Christmas songs from around the world and from the "Everlasting Light", a collection of eight inspirational Christmas songs by Mark Hayes and Clare Cloninger. For those interested in getting tickets, please contact Lara Lacsamana (0906-201 0180). If you would like to donate cash for the kids, please contact Kara Mandoe (0926-7400802).

UST holds 7th Christmas Concert Gala

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS WILL AGAIN TREAT THE THOUSANDS of community to an early Yuletide get-together for a cause as the 7th UST Christmas Concert Gala and Ball, the UST Glee Club's annual concert, will feature world-class Thomasian talents like the UST Singers, soprano Rachelle Gonzales, tenor Michel Gandara and UST Symphony Orchestra conductor Herminigildo Flavier. Other performances include the ULTRAMUSIC Vibes Group, UST Jazz Ensemble and the Tipiko de Santo Domingo Boys Choir. Donations from the Christmas concert gala will be used to construct the university's Integrative conservation efforts as one of its quadricentennial project. Part of the proceeds will also be allotted to help victims of Typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng.

TIP SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH MEGAWORLD FOUNDATION

The Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP) and Megaworld Foundation Inc. entered into a memorandum of agreement for the granting of scholarships to qualified TIP students and other various disciplines. Shown are officers of TIP and Megaworld Foundation directly involved with the project, led by the signatories of the agreement (seated, from left) Karen S. Medina, Megaworld MFO manager; Dr. Cecilia C. Llanes, TIP vice president for student affairs; Bienvenido O. Ongpin, Megaworld AVP for marketing communications and engineer Severino P. Tiaoqui, TIP vice president for administration, student services, and linkages.

85TH NCAA JUNIORS VOLLEYBALL CHAMPION

Members of University of Perpetual Help System Dalta (UPHSD) juniors volleyball team led by UPHSD Executive Director Jinkee Pumaren (3rd from left, seated) posed for posterity with Dr. Leonito Dy (left) and Ronald Mendoza (at their right) after bagging the 85th National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Volleyball Championship Plum recently at Emilio Aguinaldo College Gymnasium in Ermita, Manila. The Junior Blazers beat Staglers via 25-20, 25-16, 17-25, 25-15 in the fifth-game title clash. The Junior Altas won the title in 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003. (Photo by Benson Gaspar-Montreal/UPHSD Manila Bureau)

CEU ANNOUNCES UEP GRADUATES IN TQM IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Centro Escolar University announced the graduates of the Post-Doctoral Program in Total Quality Management in Higher Education from the University of Eastern Philippines, Catarman, Samar on Oct. 28, at the CEU Manila campus. Dr. Lilia R. Tolentino, CEU president and chief executive officer, Dr. Ma. Corazon T. Paulino, the Ma quotation chen with inscribed, from left: CEU elected fathers of Accountancy and Management, Dr. Ma. Flordeliza L. Arcega, graduate school registrar, RVP for ca E. Gonzalez, UEP president, Dr. Ma. Fe De Asis, CEU executive vice president, Dr. Rosario T. de Leon, AVP for academic affairs, Dr. Teresa B. Perez, AVP for research and evaluation, Dr. Lina G. Tolosa and AVP for student affairs, Dr. Carlos E. Chan. (Photo from left) CEU board of directors and members Engr. Dr. Maria Dolores E. dela Cruz, associate dean of Graduate School, Dr. Mildred B. Go, Dr. Rosalia Bakiles, Dr. Lourdes de Asis, Dr. Julita A. Lebrangca, Dr. Felicidad C. Perez, Dr. Elizabeth B. Bonto, Dr. Rosalia T. Lucero, Dr. Jose T. De Perio, professor Raul C. Gaerlan, Dr. Jaime T. Santos, Dr. Lourdes G. Manuel, Dr. Charlie V. Mallare, Dr. Socorro F. dela Rosa, Dr. Nilda C. Mateo, Dr. Ma. Lourdes C. de Jesus, professor Marilou F. Romero, Dr. Mario R. Young, professor Maricel L. Ogoc and CEU board marketing and education department, Ms. Chariot T. Espinas. (Seniors) Dr. Rio M. Cadiz, Dr. Divina M. Galanza-go, professor Gina D. Galvez, professor Gina G. Soto, Dr. Antonia A. Soriz, Dr. Amelia L. Santos, professor Lucy L. Perez, Dr. Milagros L. Gutierrez, Dr. Ben M. Lacanilao and Dr. Daniel U. Lucero.

Fouzi University hosts SMART Wireless technology seminar

FOUZI UNIVERSITY RECENTLY HOSTED THE second leg of the SMART seminar-series. Held at the university's newly-constructed SMART Wireless Laboratory, resource speakers Alan Gallegos, Miles Ella, Barbs, Jeff Lasala and John Gallegos discussed topics related to wireless technology such as basic communication system and system installation. The three-day long seminar was made possible through the SMART Wireless Engineering Education Program (SWEEP) memorandum of agreement between Fouzi University and SMART Communications Inc. SMART and Fouzi University signed their second SWEEP memorandum of agreement in May 2008.

DLSU College of Law holds election forum

THE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF Law recently sponsored a forum on automated election entitled "Learnings from the Milestones Experience" at the Manila Peninsula. Guest speakers were Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, program director of Electionline.org Doug Chapin and Executive Director for the Study of Politics and Governance, University of Minnesota, professor Rachel Orsak, and Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento.

Commissioning via video conferencing in addition, the speakers from Minnesota shared the state's experience using the Precinct Count Optical Scan or PCOS, from Sensormatic. PCOS is the same machines which will be used for the Philippines' first automated election next year.

The State of Minnesota has been using the PCOS system for 20 years.

According to Ritchie, Minnesota's shift to a new polling system initially met criticism and resistance, and that it gained general acceptance only after years of adopting the system.

Chapin discusses for the audience the uncertainty over the accuracy and reliability of the system. Ritchie admits that the system is not perfect, citing several recount problems filed after each automated election.

"Does and over the system is you to the test. We have so many small recounts and random audit recounts and now the very large recount," he said, referring to a crisis in Minnesota's last recount election results in 2008.

But Ritchie was quick to add that the system eventually gained acceptance in the state due primarily to the involvement of civilians in all levels of election activities, and a policy of absolute transparency adopted by the poll body and the state government.

Taking his cue from the Minnesota automated election experience, Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento expounded on the measures put in place by Comelec to ensure the integrity of the upcoming elections, such as field testing and post-election random audits. Other measures will be contained in the Implementing Rules and Regulations, which Comelec will release very soon.

Sarmiento is also confident that the poll automation law, RA 9369, has the necessary safeguards to ensure that the election process will be secure and accessible, a view he claims to be shared by the Supreme Court with the latter's ruling in the recently-decided case of Roque vs Comelec. Sarmiento highlighted the highest court's pronouncement that security measures embedded in RA 9369 "will make very real the chances of failure of elections."

The forum was the first in a series organized by the College of Law. College of Law dean lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno explained the objective of the forum. "It is only fitting that we begin our lecture series with a topic of utmost public concern - our beloved and battered automated election system. Our purpose is not merely to criticize but to critique, to find ways to safeguard the integrity of the 2010 elections so that we can - hopefully and finally - give our reasoning to the right of suffrage."

The DLSU College of Law was launched in August this year with the aim of producing a new breed of lawyers who will pioneer law, human rights and environmental laws.

EUREKA! *Queenie N. Lee-Chua*

Notes from all over

"UBOD" AND "PEPSO" have shown that during floods, potable water is not easy to find while bottled water is too expensive for many families.

Fortunately, scientists at the Industrial Technology Development Institute have come up with a simple water purification system using malunggay seeds.

Malunggay already has many health benefits. Now, it can even filter dirty water.

"Need lemonla or malunggay contains significant amounts of water soluble proteins that can act a positive charge," our Joseline Edwards and Edmara Cana, spokespersons of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). "When added to turbid waters, they can attract negatively charged particles like contaminants. The particles can then be easily removed."

Ceramic filters and activated carbon and malunggay seeds composed a purification system successfully tested recently in Barangay Tabon-Tabon, Guiguinto, Bulacan. The resulting water was crystal clear, with no runny odor. It also met local standards for drinking water.

The system can purify tap and deep-well water, and dispense 19 liters of potable water per hour, making it ideal for small communities.

For more information, contact Haris Sentes at dhs-mail@dost.gov.ph/vitd.dost.gov.ph.

Lessons from MJ

Florabella Iu notes, "I appreciate the way you made Michael Jackson's character titles (Nos. 2 and 9) into pronoun lessons... I had listened to his music, but only after his passing did I understand him, his songs, what he wanted to tell the world in a much deeper and clearer way. Jackson was a genius... I have learned to appreciate even the small, cut details of his music, his past his soul in every song he created, that is why his music is timeless."

My reply: I am happy you find meaning in his music which, I agree, is timeless. I hope the youth will find inspiration in his dedication and work ethic, and give their best to everything they do.

Tessellations & symmetry

Pauline Shong-Madrid-anente says, "I am a General Santos City-based mom with Grade 3 and Kinder 2 kids. I would to ask if there is a website for kiddie online exercises on symmetry and tessellations."

My reply: Tessellations are shapes which, when repeated, form designs and patterns. The renowned artist M. C. Escher has created beautiful tessellations, as a good artist is reversible, selfdescribing, where you can see a gallery of his work. You can even download projects you can do at home.

If you want an explanation of the mathematics behind tessellations, go to www.cool-math.com/fractint-tessellations1.htm.

For symmetry, go to www.frisbeelearning.org/Kids/1_Math/2_Shapes/4_Lessons/4-Line-Symmetry. Or you can go to www.mathsisfun.com/geometry/symmetry-art.html, which has interactive exercises on the topic.

19 clues

Ivi Arellano-Cinco says, "I forgot a clipping of your column some time back where you talked about a great book with interactive CD that you said would be good for kids, but I forgot to scroll that down. I can't find it. I'd really like to get it for my grandsons for Christmas. Also is called '39 Steps' and where can I get it? I mentioned this to my daughter in Switzerland and she was quite excited about it, especially when I told her you had recommended it highly. I tried to find it online but couldn't."

My reply: The book series, published by Scholastic, is called "The 39 Clues" (Nov. 24, 2008) and it is indeed great for kids. Instead of an interactive CD, the series is linked to the website www.the39clues.com that kids can access to solve puzzles, play games and learn about history. The series should be available in most bookstores, and would make an ideal Christmas gift.

Getting into the Ivy League

Erniedelyn Carl Amoroso says, "I have just read your article 'Getting into the Ivy League' (Aug. 25, 2008)... I am interested in the book you mentioned... 'We Envelope Therapy'. I want to get more (than) National, Bulk Booked, and Powerbooks... don't have it anymore and they cannot order it for me. Can you help me find one? I really want to read the book."

My reply: The book "We Envelope Therapy" by Jane Hagen Hyman (Sep. 25, 2008) used to be available at Powerbooks, 3rd floor, Robinson's Galleria. Tell the manager that you read my review and would like a copy. I am sure they can order it for you. Or you can check Fully Booked (though you have to wait some weeks). In fact, many reputable bookstores including those you mentioned have special, order services that are executed. Or you can always order online from Amazon.

You must be kidding

My uncle Nga Eong Sik he studied three Islamics examination Mandon, currently from British national town.

Q: What causes tides in the ocean?

A: The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon because there is no water on the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forgot where this question is the fight.

Q: What is the third?

A: A small lie

Q: What does "varicose" mean?

A: Security

Q: Where are you spiritual illness?

A: When you are sick as the mind

Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A: He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery

Email the author at bluehost@yahoo.com.

15-day countdown for Ateneo's 150th begins

ATENEO DE MANILA University gears up for its Sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary with a series of activities for 15 days beginning Nov. 25.

Among activities in Sesquicentennial on Dec. 10 until the overarching theme "150 Values: The Ateneo Way."

Scheduled activities include free concerts, lectures, sports awards, Masses, fundraising for scholarships and faculty retirement benefits.

On Nov. 25, former fourth secretary Dr. Alberto G. Romulo Jr. will give the 8th James F. Ongpin Sesquicentennial Lecture on "How Urgent is the Need for Health System Reforms in the Philippines?"

Other events scheduled include the 88th anniversary of the Blue Eagle Gym on Dec. 3, one-night concerts on Dec. 5 by pianist Raul Sunico at the Church of the Gesù, one-night Taiko and Koyasha II concert on Dec. 6 by Ateneo's most celebrated music groups, Big Blue Sesquicentennial Run on Dec. 6, Ateneo "1000@150 Volunteer: A Functioning for Individuals" on Dec. 7, inauguration and blessing of the new Rizal Library on Dec. 8, and lunch on Dec. 9 of the Loyola School book "Agenda for Hope."

The Dec. 10 activities will start with the Sesquicentennial Anniversary Mass to be led by ateneo president Fr. Jose Magadia, S.J., at 12 noon at the Church of the Gesù.

This Dec. 11, the high school will hold lights, a live, multi-sensory celebration of people, events, heritage and values that underlined high school Ateneans into agents of change for a better tomorrow.

It will be followed by the launch of Fedna Pabol's new CD, "To Love and Serve, Dalaw Dalaw Christmas," at the Church of the Gesù.

The Sesquicentennial Oneday Night is slated on Dec. 12 at the high school covered courts. Featured are Nice Whites, Chicosci, Spongecola, Kamille, Ramon "RJ" Jacinto, and Spirit of Ateneo. The day will end with a Mass at the Church of the Gesù presider the season.

Ateneo began its "1000 year celebration in 2007 with the theme, "Celebrating Excellence." In 2008, the theme was "Deepening Spirituality." This year, with the theme "Building the Nation," the university will put homage to Ateneans as men and women and professionals for others.

E-mail me at cnl11@ateneo.edu and 4266801 local 4000/05. Visit www.ateneo.edu and the Sesquicentennial site, 150.ateneo.edu, as well as the official Facebook and Twitter pages. www.facebook.com/ateneodemanila and www.twitter.com/ateneodemanila.

Campaign promotes love of reading

JOHNNY'S Basquin (left) and Suzanne Covington (right) with Education Secretary Jesli Lapus

ANWAY PUBLISHING, A leading direct-selling company, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of Education (DepEd) to promote love of reading and learning as part of the Day by Day Campaign for Children.

The campaign is one of Anway's global initiatives to help the lives of children around the world, especially in areas where it operates.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said the department welcomed private sector partners like Anway to make quality education accessible to all. Reading says comprehension, he said, opened doors for other learning.

Adee Basquin, Anway Philippines country manager, said the company chose DepEd's commitment to uphold the Filipino children's right to quality education.

The Day by Day Campaign for Children was launched in the Philippines in 2004. Anway provides a venue that is conducive to learning and an environment that stimulates children's imagination to encourage them to read.

The campaign covers three public elementary schools: F. Bonifacio Elementary School, Makati City; South City Central School, Cagayan de Oro City; and Gabriela Elementary School, Cebu City.

The company helped renovate the schools' libraries and put up storytelling corners where children could read during their free time.

Register everything seminars are being conducted by teachers, volunteer parents and Anway execs. Storytellers underwent an Anway Participants sponsored workshop in 1965 from to facilitator storytelling sessions.

The campaign is part of DepEd's Adopt-A-School program that unites private agencies in volunteerism and partners in providing quality basic education to Filipino children by helping improve classrooms and facilities, supplying textbooks, and training teaching and non-teaching staff.

Call Anway Philippines at 811-0101 or visit www.anway.com.ph.

Parañaque Book Week begins today

THE PARAÑAQUE CITY GOVERNment marks Book Week this 23-29 by holding various activities to promote reading appreciation.

This year's theme is "Basa Ayaing Magbasa in Kapaligiran ng Sag-Sakay." Activities lined up by the local government include storytelling sessions, book talk, and educational film viewing.

Spearheading the week-long observance is the Parañaque City Public Library with the National Library, Philippine Public Information Center, and the City Social Services Office (CSSO).

Mayor Florencio Bernabe said encouraging children to read books was essential to enrich their minds. He hopes that reading stimulates their curiosity and encourage them to learn more.

He told students should develop the habit of reading books and urged them and other Parañaque residents to visit the city public library regularly.

The library received recently books from the Asia Foundation and the Chinese-Filipino Business Club. It also received computers from the city government.

Is this any way to treat our teachers?

From page A1

May 2—The military rescued its kidnapped teachers. Three others were killed. Survivors said the rebels executed Daniel Gallardo and Ellendrynn Enongkapan, Enongkapan High School teacher Esmeralda and Enongkapan Elementary School teacher Lorenzo.

July—Enongkapan Elementary School teachers Academia and Manuel were released by the Abu Sayyaf.

June 19—Public school teachers Filma Quinagoring and Elizabeth Pantoja were kidnapped in Kidapawan. Quinagoring died in her captivity.

July 13—Armed men assaulted public school teachers Jennilyn Diaz, Jennylyn Camacho and Nelson Pajadal in a coastal village in Tagbilaran City, Bohol. Camacho and Diaz were released on Aug. 22. Al Qaeda on July 23. Pajadal escaped from his kidnappers.

Aug. 19—Abu Sayyaf gunmen overran Malinao Agricultural Vocational School in Aklan and Tirahi in Tarlac.

Oct. 14—Seven Ateneo de Zamboanga University armed men in Basilan.

2002: 4 reported victims

Sept. 13—Lawyer Eusebio, Edilla Basilan, Eloisa Kasan and Salvacion Mikay, teachers at the Mindanao State University (MSU)-integrated Laboratory School, were carried by four armed men in Marawi. They were released on Sept. 26.

2003: 1 reported victim

Feb. 20—Florde Bilkan Manalad, 24, professor at the MSU, was abducted in Maguindanao.

2005: At least 10 victims

April 26—10 people, mostly teachers and students of MSU, were kidnapped while on their way to Marawi City. They were rescued eight hours later.

Oct. 3—Couple Edgardo and Helen Lacuman, teachers at the Lanao National College of Arts and Trades in Ramon City were abducted by two armed men. More than nine and government forces rescued them on Dec. 4 in Piagapo, Lanao del Sur.

2008: 23 reported victims

Jan. 16—Teacher Omar Tang was snatched by armed men who shot and killed Datukpendal Para Piang in Barangay Talayan, South Upian town. Tang was released somedays in March.

June 9—MSU professor Octavio Dinampo was shot dead in Sulu. Together with Dinampo's two sister Gov. Tobar of ARMM and her two cameramen. Dinampo was freed June 17.

June 26—21 MSU teachers were kidnapped, but 20 were freed shortly after. One was released in December.

2009: 7 reported victims

Jan. 25—Landang Gun Elementary School teachers Janette de los Reyes, Faisal Hayudini and two others. Datu Un name abducted by bandits on their way to work and taken to Basilan. They were freed on May 17.

March 19—Jocelyn Enriquez, Jocelyn Jover and Noreen Mandi were on a motor boat from Bongkud to Pangatalan Elementary School on route to Naga town when abducted by armed men. They were released on Sept. 23.

Oct. 16—Gabriel Canicosa, two sons, Orville S. Canicosa unnamed man, studied in this town barangay, and found outside a guesthouse-cabin in Jolo.

Compiled by Roberlyn Bandala, Inquirer Research
(Source: Inquirer Archives)

Winners in children's storytelling contest announced

ANGELA Sodico

MARY ROSE Manuel

LAGUNA PUBLISHING HOUSE Inc. has announced the winners in its first Inter-school Children's Storytelling Competition.

Mary Rose Manuel of Calauan North Elementary School was winner in Level 1 (Grades 1-3) and Angela Godino of Manuel Luis Quezon Memorial School in Level 2 (Grades 4-7).

First and second runners-up in Level 1 were Mans Tomas of Rosario Almario Elementary School and Frances Simon of the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, respectively.

For Level 2, Pamela Ayson Pendoner and Jarrel Rae Dominguez were first and second runners-up respectively.

Some 120 private and public schools joined the competition that aimed to promote literacy and language appreciation.

Twenty-four schools reached the finals held during the 30th Manila International Book Fair. Judges were children's book authors Angie Rivera and Dr. Lin Enriquez, and Precious Ilagan Dept.'s editor in chief Edith Garcia.

Mourning Jane Austen

From page H4

would have been home with only the cats.

Which she now sees safe and somewhat dry in the upper story of our house, Jane Austen, Henry James, James Michener, John Updike, Simone de Beauvoir, Josh Denham, Boston Pesky, Maxine Hong Kingston, H.G. Wells, Barbara Kingsolver, and others whose names escape me now, were drowning in vicious floodwaters downstairs.

There just wasn't enough room to save them all. The much worse for wear. We went for the photographs first when the water began to hit the den and, as it was, some were ruined or to recover some of the albums. By the time the water stopped rising, the bottom three shelves of our floor-to-ceiling bookcases were submerged.

Since "Ginsberg" I've been washing up in the middle of the night, suddenly remembering a book I love, or one that my children have always treasured. Books such as Pamela Ayres' "I'll Fly If It's Not There." I'm sometimes sad and unable to go back to sleep from the grief.

I had sent my dad a copy of "A River Runs Through It" since as a poem suffering, to assure for the reasons I could not send him. The flood didn't spare us. My grandmother in her 40s took a lot of trouble looking for an illustrated copy of "The Odyssey" for my young children. To help the kids understand the rather complicated plot, she made a beautiful, detailed, hand-drawn "Iliad" in several maps. Your book is gone, too. I'm listening a lot more titles than these, I'm finding out. So can you blame me if some nights I sit and cry like a diabetic old woman with a stolen candy bar?

No one, not even me, is outside me, but said to me, "They're only books and you can replace them." They know me too well. They can, the furniture, the Christmas china, the spoons from Italy, the silver, the spoons from the flood are all "just stuff"—but not our books.

Within the pages of those books, I built for myself a world, intimacy with others or with God, or noble, hearts throbbing with love and lust and loss, eyes reflecting the clusters of the world we are often meant to abuse, hands wearing swords of wonder or terror, arms enveloping you up in the warmest embrace, mouths echoing the names of gods or the fury of prowling, dangerous, to know what I mean, if you love books.

"Maybe you need counseling," said my sister in law Stella. I think I just need to mourn properly.

E-mail the author at chlorrmacs@inquirer.com.ph.

ABOVE: Search for Outstanding Reader Teacher national champion Dahelia (2nd from right) with Assistant Education Secretary Teresita Inciong (left); Left: Education Secretary Lapus with Read-a-thon teams from Regions 9 and 10.

Young and in love — with reading

By Tina G. Santos

VANICE KAYLA Delica, 8, wishes other children, but most especially her older brothers, would share her passion for reading.

"Ito ang hindi ko gusto sa kanila (that's why I want to encourage him to read)," the shy third grader from Oriental Mindoro said of her 10-year-old sibling.

On the other hand, Marian Marie Villareal, 9, believes reading is all fun for its own sake, even just for a few lines of books she thinks will help her achieve her goals in life.

Villareal, who says each story

PETER John (R. Ayala, English Oral Reading Interpretation Champion

has a moral lesson, adds, "Kwento lahat dapat kasi mo love and read books" if they want a promising future.

For the two young girls, reading has already paid off. They are among the winners in the Department of Education's 2004 National Read-a-thon contest.

Villareal and Delica, national champions in oral reading interpretation and story retelling (pamamanata) would in their own words (as they read), respectively, each received P25,000 and a medal.

The Read-a-thon competition, part of DepEd's program to improve reading competencies, ordered the best individual and team readers among public elementary school pupils.

The winners said they were out to save their cash prizes, but hoped to use some of the money to buy more books.

The girls gave credit to their respective teachers who coached them.

Practice is key

Ruby Hernandez, Villareal's coach and a teacher at the Ilaya Bonbon Central School in Bongabong, said everyday (sa) ang pamitar nadiri ya sa ara-aling.

"Sin didn't stop practicing until the (Villareal) was able to deliver the proper emotions in every story she read to her (sa ginbasa)," Hernandez said. "I also exposed her to different kinds of people so she could gain more confidence. I took her not just to different classrooms but also to parks where she read stories to neighborhood and street children."

The DepEd also honored this year's Outstanding Reading Teachers for their important contributions in the field of literacy: Grace Rabuka of Valma Central Pilot School, Cotabato for national champion; Amey Balebon of Legarda Elementary School, Manila, first runner-up; and Eva Dominguez of Sidlot Brown Elementary School, Dumaguete City, second runner-up.

They received cash prizes of P75,000, P50,000 and P30,000, respectively, as well as trophies and books for their schools (but also received plaques). The winning teachers' divisions and regions also received plaques.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said the recognition aimed to motivate the teachers to encourage their children to read and encourage them to share best practices in teaching reading.

"When children can read and comprehend what they are reading, it is easier for them to understand other lessons in school. Learning really starts a solid foundation is reading," he said.

Other initiatives to improve reading comprehension include the establishment of library hubs and book donations by the private sector and local governments.

Lapus said he had directed schools to beef up their libraries and implement various reading strategies to develop a love for reading at an early age.

Mourning Jane Austen

By Chelo Raxai Formoso

"KAMATAYAN NI JANE AUSTEN! Hi books," said my husband, quoting I can't remember who. Its that was what we did, twice in one stunted life.

When we moved from New York to Sacramento, we took nothing with us except our books. Absolute must—if I was to feel love that of all people I would even use—a set of pots and pans with a lifetime warranty.

When we were about to throw Dan Brown into the Sacramento river, we had a mercy weekend garage sale to unload stuff that we didn't really care for, then we filled a freight ship's container with an accumulation of what he Sean would call "dunnits." But our books we brought with us to the plane—in so many boxes that I swear only my mother's and my mother-in-law's unless prayers kept that plane afloat.

Kinship of books

In my parents' Marikina house are bulletproof books found binding each my father's books, my frayed literary purchases from the time I started to earn my own money to the time I left for the US, and my siblings' leftover books I threw (they didn't take with them upon marriage).

That's a lot of books, yes. In the three houses that my parents had lived in with their growing family of five, I always scrapped at child No. 9, Chuck (God's throw outs always something to reach everywhere, and never enough shelves for the books).

My mother hardly had the time or the money to decorate, but our house had character because at the center of it was a big bookcase. From those shelves I pulled out "Sir Walter the Hell Dalls," "A Tale of Two Cities," "Wonder Carter" when I was growing.

Except for "Rama Years," my dad pretty much let me read any book I wanted. Well, I take that back. He once told me reading Mills and Boons was a waste of time. But...he added, read a couple so you can find out for yourself what I mean, and if you like that kind of writing, you don't have to apologize for who or what you read.

Collections

As it was, I ended up reading the books that my father read. And by his example, I learned to collect books.

He had all of the classics —Dickens, Hawthorne, Joyce, Flaubert, Tolstoi, Dostoievski. He had almost all of Hemingway, Steinbeck, Fitzgerald, among others. But his favorites were the classic and epic books in the broadest sense as he would of Wedding Cats, Cocoon, to name a few. He also had a soft spot for journalistic reports of feminine like Queen Liz Bojeaklis, Robert Brault and Snoop Brodie.

I have the time to read. If I like a book, I go and get the other books by the same author. If I find a gem that I like and it doesn't give me what I want, I'll throw it away.

My children had their own collections. Of the topsy of my head, I know they had all of Dr. Seuss, including the ones by O. Facciani, all the Berenstain Bears books, all the Disney books (except for the ones I threw out when I found out they were Disney's). As they became literate readers, they turned in the works of Robert N. Munsch and Ruth Child.

Daughter Bea collected Ole Madeline books by Ludwig Bemelmans (it grew her each which destroys some of the

It's National Book Month and as good a time as any to remind you to build your library on an upper floor

books heroine and ever my friend Philos's "Six Sleeps Over" and "Farewell Goodbye" as well as "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day."

Central place

When Eales was accepted into the library sectionship program for special learners at Emilio Aguinaldo University I had shelves built along one long wall of the den. The intent was to put all the books in the house in that one central place and from Cubo and Bea to mine. Get him ready for work in a real library, I thought.

We started his home placement with the children's books, but took his tweety time and made it clear (hmm) the Dr. Seuss books were off limits. Get him ready for work in a real library, I thought.

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He